

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

**House**... Full details of the rate-capping Bill... sturgeon... What to do with caviar by The Times cook... Bells... Wednesday Page looks at the upsurge in obscene telephone calls, with advice on how to deal with them... books... The Booker Prize: Miles Kingdon on how to a kill a party-time conversation... and Candelford... Lark Rise to Candleford: Spectrum on the making of a best-seller out of the book by Flora Thompson (below)



## Judge jails child sex man

Judge Brian Gibbons sentenced a man who had intercourse with a friend's daughter, aged seven, to two years' imprisonment "to mark the enormity of the crime". The judge, who is 71, claimed he was misreported in his reference last Friday to the offence as "an accident". The Lord Chancellor has asked for a transcript of Friday's proceedings. Page 3

## Challenge over cancelled rig

British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard will challenge yesterday's cancellation by a British-owned consortium of an £80m oil rig which had failed 500 days behind schedule. Labour MPs pressed for an emergency debate on the matter. Page 25

## Europe's cash

The EEC's £15.5bn budget, approved by the Parliament last week, will be adopted today as the Council of Ministers lodges a last-minute protest. Page 5

## Pay-cut theory

A reduction of 10 per cent in teenagers' average wages could create an extra 70,000 to 100,000 jobs for young people, a research paper says. Page 2

## Eagle-eyed

Washington is preparing a review of Soviet violations of arms control agreements to be presented to Congress early in the new year. Page 5

## Jobless 'decline'

Unemployment no longer seems to be rising and may even be falling, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, told the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee. Page 5

## Habsburg theory

Crown Prince Rudolf, believed to have committed suicide with his lover at Mayerling, Austria, in 1889, was murdered according to Habsburg family papers. Page 5

## Transplant fear

The condition of Mr Lars Ljungberg, aged 32, Britain's first heart-lung transplant patient, was causing "grave concern", doctors at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, said.

## Spy chief quits

Mr John Ryan, Australia's espionage chief, has resigned after a bungled training exercise when agents wearing carnival masks ran amuck in a Melbourne hotel. Page 6

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The strategy of the Provisional IRA; President Reagan and the Salvador death squads; Spectrum: Beirut's human zoo of hatred; Fashion: Christmas gifts for men  
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# Royal couple visit youngest victim as Brittan steps up security

## Newman puts 700 more police on bomb watch

More police are to be deployed on anti-terrorist duties in central London, in the wake of the Harrods bombing.

The Prince and Princess of Wales went to two hospitals to visit those of the injured who were well enough to see them.

Harrods opened at 9 am as usual, but there were fewer customers than are normally expected on the Monday before Christmas (Page 2)

Police believe the IRA may have reserved a space for the car bomb by parking another car there earlier.

Mr Prior, on US television, exposed the misconception that Americans' cash went to IRA freedom fighters. "It goes to buy arms" Page 2

Mr Gerry Adams, president of Provisional Sinn Féin, denied a rift between the military and political wings of the republican movement Page 2

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Police vehicles patrolling 24 hours a day to respond specifically to bomb threats anywhere in Metropolitan London, and more dog handlers, traffic police and foot patrols, were among the new safety measures announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, in the wake of the Harrods bombing on Saturday in which five people were killed and 93 injured.

Mr Brittan, who earlier consulted the Prime Minister and Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, also told MPs that the Home Secretary was considering whether membership of Provisional Sinn Féin should be made illegal. But he said that there were powerful arguments on either side of that question.

Mr Brittan told an impressively united Commons that Sir Kenneth's measures for the public's greater protection would include 64 more dog handlers, 30 more traffic branch police officers, and 320 more uniformed foot duty officers deployed in the inner districts; an increase of 200 in the number of CID and Special Branch officers in central London; four more special patrol groups, totalling 120 officers, in the inner districts.

Mr Brittan added that particular care had also been taken to ensure that policing against terrorist threats was fully maintained elsewhere in the London area.

The possible proscription of Sinn Féin was one of several questions briefly considered when Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Brittan and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, met for 40 minutes at 10 Downing Street.

Mrs Thatcher asked for the arguments to be set out again for the Cabinet, which at its weekly meeting on Thursday is expected to review the whole range of possible political and physical measures to contain

the threat of Irish Republican violence.

Despite this, the impression at Westminster yesterday was that proscription is not likely to be introduced. Mr Prior is convinced that Sinn Féin politicians would be able to use it to further their cause.

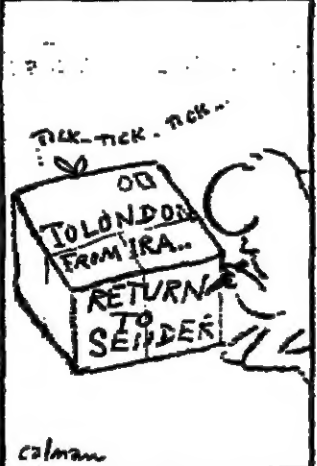
He has argued that the party would say that the Government, having challenged it to

detention of suspected terrorists, saying that there had been more murders when there was detention, and against introducing identity cards. The first had been suggested by Mr Julian Amery, from the Conservative benches; the second by Mr Russell Johnston, the Liberal spokesman.

Mr Brittan in his statement to the Commons said that public violence was essential to give full effect to the increased security measures. He promised that everything possible was being done to bring the criminals to justice. And he spoke of the nauseating hypocrisy of the IRA statement in Dublin on Sunday which professed regret for the civilian casualties.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Labour spokesman, decided that the clearest demonstration of support for the efforts of the police and the Home Secretary was to ask no questions.

Mr Kaufman was as scornful as Mr Brittan of the IRA "evil men who, characteristically and contemptibly, seek to creep away from the consequences of their inhumanity". MPs and the people they represented were united in their determination to stand against them, and would make no concession to the bullet and the bomb.



## Two cars theory in hunt for Harrods killers

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The Provisional IRA unit which killed five people at Harrods may have reserved a space for their car bomb by parking another vehicle in the row of parking bays alongside the store hours before the explosion.

Yesterday, hundreds of policemen, backed by a £250,000 reward offer, continued the search for the bombers, Commander William Huckleby, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, said he was now considering the theory that two cars could have been used. A similar system is known to have been used by IRA bombers in the past.

Mr Huckleby said the first car would have been driven into Hans Crescent some time on Saturday morning and parked at a meter. Just after midday the Austin 1300 GT arrived and took its place. The driver of the Austin may have set the timing device on the bomb and been driven away in the other car.

Police now know, from one of the policemen in a police car which pulled up behind the Austin before it exploded, that the 1300 was parked in the wrong direction, facing towards Brompton Road. The crescent is one-way.

The Yard hopes members of the public in the crescent may have seen the exchange. It is

also possible that details of parked cars could have been kept by traffic wardens or police since the area is always subject to strict parking controls.

Yesterday Mr Huckleby disclosed that the police have gone some way in tracing the Austin, which was originally registered in Leicester in 1972, and have interviewed two car dealers. The car, registration KFP 252K, was sold by one dealer to another just over a month ago in London.

Mr Huckleby said the second dealer sold the car from his showroom and police are still trying to discover what happened to it between then and last Saturday.

As statements come in from Harrods staff, the staff of other shops in Hans Crescent and the hundreds of people shopping there on Saturday, the Yard has brought in a large desk-top computer to keep pace with the detail from witnesses. Since Saturday a staff of more than two dozen has been working round the clock to keep pace with the flow of information manually and the computer will allow for their release elsewhere.

Assistant Commissioner Gilbert Kelland, head of London CID, said that the Yard had accepted the offer of a £250,000 reward made by an anonymous businessman for information



Youngest victim: The Princess of Wales at St Thomas's Hospital yesterday, chatting to Rajan Parmar, aged five, whose leg was injured in the Harrods bomb attack.

## I apologize on behalf of London, says prince

By Alan Hamilton

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday went to two London hospitals to visit victims of Saturday's Knightsbridge bomb attack. Prince Charles told one American casualty: "I apologize on behalf of London. It was terrible."

Fifteen members of the public and five police officers were still being cared for in four London hospitals yesterday. Two of the policemen remain in critical condition.

Inspector Stephen Dodd was laid to be "critical but stable" on a life support machine at the Central Middlesex Hospital. PC John Gordon, a dog handler, was said to be "poor but stable" at the Westminster Hospital and a special kidney unit has been brought in from RAF Halton to help stem a deteriorating kidney complaint.

PC Gordon lost his right leg in the blast as he approached the car bomb with his sniffer dog, Queenie. His wife, who is seven months pregnant, said yesterday that the incident had been "an absolute nightmare".

The condition of Sergeant Andrew Melham, in the intensive care unit of St Thomas's Hospital, was reported to "stable". Sergeant Christopher Stanger and PC Martyn Holgate, the other two officers still detained, were both described as "very comfortable".

At Westminster Hospital the royal couple met Mr Mark McDonald, an American geologist who was one of the most seriously injured civilians. Mr McDonald, now out of intensive care, was joined by his parents from Michigan. His mother, Mrs Audrey McDonald, said: "It is tremendous to get this royal support. The princess obviously felt great sympathy for all those who were injured."

The prince and princess had a brief private meeting with PC Gordon before meeting other civilians, including Mr Robert Brown, a stockbroker who suffered a broken arm and severe shrapnel wounds.

At St Thomas's Hospital Sergeant Melham was too ill to see the royal couple, but they met PC Holgate, recovering from his third bomb incident. He was 200 yards away from the bomb which cut down the Household Cavalry last year and was among the officers who found last week's unexploded bomb near Kensington High Street.

Some bomb victims would be "totally maimed for life", a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Westminster Hospital, Mr Paul Aichroth, said yesterday. Even with artificial limbs, their lives would never be the same (The Press Association reports).

## Arafat prepares for dawn evacuation

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, northern Lebanon

Mr Yasser Arafat's 4,000 guerrillas under siege in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli prepared for a dawn evacuation today. The five Greek ships which are to take them to Tunisia, Algeria and North Yemen left Cyprus for Lebanon last night with an escort of five French warships, including the aircraft carrier, "Clemenceau".

Despite the lachrymose predictions of Mr Arafat that the Israeli Navy would block his men's evacuation, Israeli gunboats which have been shelling Tripoli withdrew southwards down the coast in mid-afternoon, to permit the 10 vessels to enter the harbour.

Yesterday evening the grey-painted bulk of the Cypriot merchant coaster My Charn still lay smouldering alongside Tripoli's No 2 quay yesterday, her bridge and superstructure concealed on to the burnt decks where an Israeli shell had smashed into her.

On the other side of the wharf an already-damaged vessel had sunk miserably on to the seabed during the early morning shelling, her masts awash just north of the harbour.

Earlier, Mr Arafat had feared that the latest Israeli naval bombardment of Tripoli - the sixth in 10 days - had prompted the Greek Government to seek further guarantees for the safety of their five evacuation ships.

## Nakasone will have narrow majority

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, looked certain last night to have a narrow working majority after the sharp rebuff to his Liberal Democratic Party in Sunday's general election. The turnout was the lowest since the Second World War.

It was clear that Mr Nakasone would take enough independents into his party to assure LDP control of the premiership. At least nine of the 16 independents elected on Sunday are conservative politicians sympathetic to, or with past affiliations with, the ruling party.

His party won 250 seats in the 511-member Lower House, six less than a majority and 36 fewer than before the election. The biggest Opposition party, the Japan Socialists, took 112 seats, compared with 101 at dissolution.

But the most striking progress was made by the Komeito (Clean Party), with 58 seats against a previous total of 34. Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former premier whose refusal to resign his seat after being convicted in the Lockheed bribery scandal caused the election was returned by a landslide in his rural constituency.

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## Princess Caroline to marry

From Diana Geddes

Paris

Princess Caroline of Monaco, aged 26, is to marry Signor Stefano Casiraghi, 23-year-old son of an Italian businessman, Prince Ranier announced yesterday. The civil wedding, which will be a "strictly family affair", will take place in the royal palace in Monte Carlo on December 29.

The couple, who have known one another for three years, but only closely for the past six months, had both wanted a church wedding. But Princess Caroline failed to obtain the necessary papal annulment of her previous marriage to M Philippe Junot, the international playboy, which ended in divorce three years ago.

Signor Casiraghi is the youngest of four children of what is reputed to be one of the richest families in Italy, based in an early twentieth-century 50-room palazzo in Fieschi Morasco on the shore of Lake Como.

The Casiraghis also have a house at St Jean Cap Ferrat.

## Marks & Spencer breaks with family tradition

By Derek Harris

Lord Sieff of Brompton is stepping down as chairman of Marks & Spencer in July, making way for Lord Rayner, the man Mrs Thatcher called in to improve efficiency in Whitehall.

This means that for only the second time in the chain's 100-year history, the top man will not be a member of one of the founding families.

But Lord Sieff will remain as a director of the company and has accepted the post of president.

Mr Michael Marks who, with Mr Thomas Spencer, founded the business in Leeds in 1884. Born Marcus Sieff, the son of the late Lord Sieff (formerly Israel Sieff), he was educated at Manchester Grammar School, St Paul's and Corpus Christi, Cambridge.

He joined the family business 48 years ago and was appointed to the board in 1955. He became chairman 11 years ago when the annual turnover was £417m. It is now £2,500m. Services to exports earned him his knighthood in 1971 and he became a life peer in 1980. In 1976 he was Hambro's



Lord Sieff (left) and his successor, Lord Rayner, businessman of the year, and was presented with the International Retailer of the Year Award in New York earlier this year.

Now 70, he is in good health and shows no signs of reducing the pace that has made Marks & Spencer the most successful retailer in Britain.

Yesterday he was at his desk early, took a board meeting, went to a business lunch and, according to fellow directors, planned to go on his regular round of some of the stores.

He has described his methods like this: "It is not state visits. It is listen and learn at store level. It is the sales staff and supervisors who know what is going on."

director, said of Lord Sieff yesterday: "He has terrific drive and leadership. The growth of the company has been phenomenal under his leadership. He played a major role in getting the company into Europe and Canada."

The Sieff view has been that while Marks & Spencer may have grown into a formidable retailing chain, it must retain the point of view of the archetypal family shop, caring for staff and customers alike and taking price in what it sells.

One of the keys to its success is its willingness to experiment. Continued on back page, col 5







# Judge jails child sex man for two years and says he was misreported

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, has called for the transcript of the proceedings in which a senior judge at the Central Criminal Court said that he felt sympathy for a man with a drink problem who admitted having intercourse with a friend's daughter, aged seven.

When Judge Brian Gibbons, aged 71, yesterday jailed the man, William Watson-Sweeney, for two years, "to mark the enormity of the crime", he criticised reports of the case in Saturday's newspapers.

He said that after seeing *The Times*, he decided, as there was such "gross distortion" of what he had said and meant, that he would avoid reading any other papers, to avoid prejudicing his sentencing yesterday.

Judge Gibbons was reported on Saturday in *The Times* as saying: "It strikes me as being one of the kind of accidents that could almost happen to anyone." The headline was: "Sex with children could happen to anyone accidentally, judge says."

The judge told the crowded court yesterday that he actually said: "This is of course a serious offence, offending against a little child, but it strikes me, without belittling the offence, it is one of the kind of accidents which happen in life to almost anyone - although of a wholly different kind."

He told the court that he had

called for an official shorthand transcript to check what he actually said. As Watson-Sweeney was not to be sentenced until yesterday the matter was sub judice.

Judge Gibbons added that he was referring to what he called "gross violation" of the sub judice rule to the Attorney General for possible contempt of court proceedings.

Judge Gibbons said that he had always regarded Watson-Sweeney's case as serious and denied saying that anyone could accidentally molest a child. He said he hoped the press would make amends by pointing out that the defendant was not a paedophile and had not misbehaved before.

Everyone felt sorry for her and her family, Judge Gibbons said. However, he was not prepared to pass sentence by rule of thumb and made no apology for feeling compassion for anyone who had brought disaster and shame upon himself by a momentary lapse. Drink had prompted his disgusting behaviour.

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, for the defence, said that the main cause of the defendant's behaviour had been an alcohol problem which developed after he was wounded twice while serving in Northern Ireland with the Royal Corps of Signals.

He told Watson-Sweeney, aged 35, of Vernon Road, Guildford, Surrey: "I must send you to prison to mark the enormity of the crime. It is obvious from your remorse and horror you are never likely to do it again. This persuades me that I can treat you with less severity."

In Watson-Sweeney's case, he said, it was an unexpected, unpremeditated and sudden crime. By his own fault his life had been knocked to pieces.

When the child first went indoors with Watson-Sweeney he had no indecent intention and a game with her got out of hand. The judge said that the girl was not harmed, no force was used and her virginity was still intact.

Mr Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*, was censured yesterday in a Commons motion which questioned his decision to surrender a leaked document to the Ministry of Defence.

The motion, tabled by Mr Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney, South and Shoreditch, said that the editor's act should serve as a public warning that the paper could not be trusted to protect its sources and called on Mr Preston and his colleagues "to consider his fitness to continue as editor of a radical national newspaper".

Mr David Pannick, representing Miss de Launay, told the tribunal that Mr Wallace made a general ruling that women police officers should never be given permanent patrols with married men.

Mr Wallace said that although he did not believe the officers were having an affair, he thought one might start if they continued their partnership. "I have had you checked out", he is alleged to have said.

Mr Wallace is claimed to have told the two officers that he did not want the men's wives

complain to him of mixed partnerships.

Mr Pannick told the tribunal that the decision effectively made it impossible for Miss de Launay to go on regular police car patrol, thus affecting her future prospects.

He said that although Mr Wallace had described her as one of the best workers at the Hampton police garage, she was later returned to foot patrol. Recently, he said, Miss de Launay, who has been in the police force for five years, gained the highest marks, 99.5 per cent, on a driving school course.

The case, the first sexual discrimination action against the Metropolitan Police to reach a tribunal hearing, has been taken up by the Police Federation and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

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have worsened considerably.

Mr Tony Lee, the RAC's director of public affairs, said: "While authorities have introduced new measures to enforce on-street parking laws at meters and elsewhere, nothing has been done to increase off-street parking space to meet the ever-growing demands of motorists who now depend on cars more than in earlier years for personal mobility."

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Transferred to foot patrol: WPC Wendy de Launay.

## WPC claims discrimination

A woman police constable was banned from regular patrols with a married male colleague because they worked too well together, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday.

PC Wendy de Launay is accusing the Metropolitan Police of sexual discrimination and victimization because of the ruling, which she claimed was made by Chief Supt Brian Wallace of the force's south-west traffic area.

Miss de Launay, aged 25, of Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey, said that after bringing the complaint she was transferred from her job in the traffic division to foot patrol in Fulham.

Mr David Pannick, representing Miss de Launay, told the tribunal that Mr Wallace made a general ruling that women police officers should never be given permanent patrols with married men.

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## £400m cash aid closer for Airbus

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

The Government appears to be moving close to providing launch aid for the 150-seat Airbus A320, which seeks to give Britain and Europe a big share of the short-to-medium distance airlines market well into the next century.

British Aerospace, a 20 per cent partner in the Airbus consortium, is seeking £400m to get the new technology aircraft off the ground, and a government announcement is expected when Parliament reassembles in mid-January.

The Department of Industry agreed yesterday that there was "much common ground" between the Government and the TUC after a meeting between Mr Norman Lamont, the aerospace minister, and a delegation from the TUC nationalized industries committee.

Airbus predicts that the A320 could win about a thousand orders by the end of the century at a current price of between £16m and £17m each.

With orders already received from France, Britain (British Caledonian) and Yugoslavia, the A320 programme would go ahead with or without British participation, the TUC delegation argued.

Mr Lamont apparently agreed but a department spokesman emphasized later that the Government had to be sure that the project was viable.

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## 'Trade drain' caused by town parking shortage

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

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# Universities plan to fight back in political arena

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The committee representing Britain's university vice-chancellors is restructuring itself under the chairmanship of Lord Flowers, rector of Imperial College, London, so that it can better defend and rebuild the university system.

It has decided to stop being purely reactive, and to take the initiative. "We want to be more effective and hope thereby that we will have part of the instrument we need for rebuilding the universities", Lord Flowers said.

The university system has lacked an effective voice in the past and that lack has been felt keenly in the past three years when the sector has come under political pressure. The cash cuts were absorbed rather than fought.

More cuts are now being talked about and the University Grants Committee has launched a Great Debate at the prompting of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, raising 28 questions, including academic standards. The universities are being forced to examine themselves and the committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals wants to be in the vanguard of this examination.

Lord Flowers said that the committee hoped eventually to have permanent specialist groups looking at its relationship with schools, with the polytechnics and with the health service.

It has set up a group among the universities and industry and, as part of its decision to take the initiative, has established working parties on the alternative funding of universities and on the maintenance of academic standards, two subjects close to Sir Keith's heart. Those two groups will produce reports quickly.

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The academic standards committee, chaired by Professor Philip Reynolds, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, is beginning with an inquiry into the system of external examinations and whether it is adequate for guaranteeing the standards of examinations. It will also look at the supervision of PhD theses.

Lord Flowers hopes that out of this will come guidelines or a code of practice on external examining. The present system varies tremendously between subjects and between institutions.

The working party on alternative funding will look at the way in which universities are funded in other countries, particularly the United States, where companies get generous tax relief for donations to universities.

Colleges shake-up

Sir Keith gave his seal of approval yesterday to next year's plan for local authority education, which will almost certainly mean the closure of at least one college. In a written House of Commons reply, he said letters were being sent yesterday to local education authorities and institutions.

This is the first time this sector of education has been subjected to central planning. One key priority has been a shift from arts and social science towards the scientific, technological and business-related disciplines.

Pension warning

The National Union of Teachers, said yesterday that teachers would be very angry if they had to bear the brunt of a proposed increase in pension contributions.

Video maps planned for hikers

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

Maps for hikers and walkers may be made available on video and cassettes for home computers if a survey being conducted on their commercial potential by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain proves positive.

The government body, which is charged with the duty of mapping Britain, is converting its 250,000 large scale maps into digital form to be used by a computer. Based on that experience the small scale maps, used by motorists and other road users are expected to be given the same treatment for home computers.

More than 2,000 map users, local government, national government, companies and private individuals, will take part in the survey.

The small scale maps come in three categories. They are the route planner, used by transport companies and taxis; the landranger, used principally by cyclists, walkers and hikers; and the routemaster, used by motorists.

The advantages of the computerization is that the user can select the type of map he wishes to have displayed.

Environmental Radioactivity Surveillance Programme: Results for the UK for 1982. HMSO, £4.

Radioactive fallout level drops

By Clive Cookson

The amount of radioactive fallout over Britain declined last year, according to the National Radiological Protection Board. Levels today are probably lower than at any time since the 1950s, when many nuclear weapons were tested in the atmosphere.

The board's annual report on fallout, published today, shows that concentrations of the most important isotopes (strontium-90 and caesium-137) in air, rain and milk fell in 1982 to about the same level as 1980. There had been a slight increase in 1981 after a Chinese nuclear explosion in October, 1980.

The 1983 figures are not available yet, but the board expects the decline to continue.

Fallout today is due mainly to the deposition of long-lived isotopes from the group of nuclear explosions which preceded the 1963 atmospheric test ban treaty.

The radioactive dose which the British population receives from weapons fallout is now less than one per cent of the total exposure from all sources.

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## Travel agent staff 'must be qualified'

Package tour buyers must continue to be protected from untrained inexperienced and incompetent staff, the Restrictive Practices Court held yesterday.

The quality of travel agency staff should be subject to compulsory minimum standards to be imposed and policed by the Association of British Travel Agents.

Mr Justice Anthony Lincoln, the court chairman, said a purchaser of a foreign package tour was entering into one of the most substantial transactions in his family budget. He could not readily, if at all, find out whether the travel agency staff were offering him the most suitable service, knew what they were talking about or were really able to get the services expected.

The court was giving a reserved judgment on minimum professional standards needed for travel agency staff.

The ruling was a sequel to the main judgment last December when legal approval was given for the "closed shop" system among ABTA members.

ABTA's "closed shop" among its 2,400 members had been challenged by the Office of Fair

Trading, which maintained that it was anti-competition and against the public interest, but the court ruled that it was an extra safeguard for package tour buyers.

Under the system an Abta tour operator may sell his holidays only directly to the public or through an Abta agent, and an agent may sell only package holidays supplied by an Abta operator.

The court then ruled that maintaining protection for the travelling public was more important than objections to the exclusive trading system.

Dealing with the quality of travel agency staff yesterday, Mr Justice Lincoln said that all Abta retail agencies should have available the advice or supervision of a qualified person.

Abta had proposed that the person should be qualified if he had had two years' practical experience; or 18 months' experience and completed tests for the Certificate of Travel Agency Competence.

The Office of Fair Trading claimed there was no need for more than a minimum of one year's practical experience in the industry.

Life for killer who tried to fake own death

From Our Correspondent, Manchester

A father of two who battered an insurance salesman to death in an attempt to fake his own killing was given a life sentence by a judge at Manchester Crown Court yesterday, with the recommendation that he served not less than 20 years.

James Mason, aged 31, bludgeoned his victim with a 7lb weight, disguised the body in his own clothing and dumped it in a country village. His plan was for the body to be identified as his and for £70,000 insurance money to be claimed.

But four days after the "dreadful and horrific murder" Mason gave himself up and confessed, the court was told.

Mason, a bakery worker, of Bolton Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Greater Manchester, was told by Mr Justice Beldam:

"For greed and in a way which would cause the blood to run cold, you selected your victim, a husband and father, and bludgeoned him to death unsuspecting as he was."

"You then pursued your objective by dressing him in your clothes, believing that you would be able to persuade those who had undertaken the contract of insurance to pay out a substantial sum of money."

"It is a most dreadful crime and one for which the law now has one penalty. I sentence you to life and it is my recommendation that you serve at least 20 years."

## Editor should go, MP says



PARLIAMENT December 19 1983

Home Secretary hesitant over banning Provisional Sinn Fein

TERRORISM

The Government has not ruled out the possibility of banning the Provisional Sinn Fein, but there were no arguments in both directions from the Home Secretary, Mr. Leon Brittan, when questioned about his statement on the bomb incident outside Harrods store on Saturday.

He also said that preventive detention had been tried before and has been found to be unhelpful. However, the Government was keeping all measures under review.

Mr. Brittan, in his statement, detailed events at Harrods on Saturday. He said that police had already received 22 similar messages earlier in the day about suspicious devices, all of this turned out to be false alarms.

The bomb was detonated by a timing device similar to that used in other IRA attacks. Everything possible was being done to bring those responsible for this outrage to justice.

He went on: The IRA made a statement last night in 'Dublin' in which they admitted responsibility for the attack, as well as for the bomb outside Woolwich barracks ten days ago. They also claimed that the attack was unauthorised and would not be repeated, and they requested the civilian casualties.

As I have said elsewhere, I find the disclaimer of responsibility utterly contemptible. (Cheers.) Those who place a bomb of this size in a street crowded with Christmas shoppers cannot evade responsibility in that way. Moreover, the bomb was timed to go off just at the moment when those investigating the situation were likely to be approaching it.

I totally reject the implied distinction between civilian and police casualties.

What has happened is that the IRA has found that the action taken by its members has caused universal revulsion and condemnation. It is a price of nauseous hypocrisy for them now to try and disown it and to claim that some kinds of brutal murder are legitimate and some are illegitimate.

The whole House will, I am sure, wish to join me in expressing a sense of outrage at what has occurred, sympathy with the victims and all those, including the police, emergency services and staff at the hospitals, who have worked tirelessly and with devotion to deal with the aftermath of this monstrous crime.

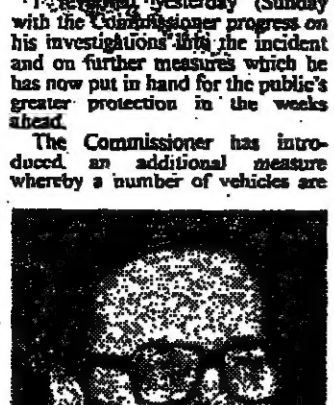
Before this incident the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police had already taken special action in Central London to counter recent terrorist threats. He had increased the number of police officers on traffic, crime and public

order duties and had deployed additional officers from special units, including dog handlers, to inner London districts.

He had also, following the Woolwich bomb incident on December 10, issued an appeal for the public to exercise vigilance.

The Commissioner's progress on his investigations into the incident and on further measures which he has now put in hand for the public's greater protection in the weeks ahead.

The Commissioner has introduced an additional measure whereby a number of vehicles are



Rees: There is no point in detention

charged specifically with the task of responding to bomb threats within the Metropolitan area. These crews are patrolling 24 hours a day; they are able to respond swiftly to any threat received and to summon specialist help where necessary.

The Commissioner has further increased by 64 officers the number of dog handlers deployed, deployed 30 additional Traffic Branch officers, and increased uniform foot duty officers by 320 in the inner district.

He has also increased the number of CID and Special Branch officers by 300 in central London and deployed a further four Special Patrol Group units totalling 120 officers in the inner districts. But particular care has also been taken to ensure the police's response to terrorist threats is fully maintained elsewhere in the London area during this period.

Public vigilance is now essential in order to give full effect to the extra measures I have outlined to increase security. Those who perpetrated this crime will already have learned that their action has in no way weakened the unshakable resolve of Government and public alike that violence will not secure its objective.

Indeed, if anything, an outrage of this kind makes our resolution and determination stronger than ever.

Mr. Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Manchester, Gorton, Lab), after expressing sympathy to the bereaved and injured and praising the courage of the police, said: MPs and the people we represent are united in our utter and implacable determination to stand firm against the evil men who perpetrated this deed and who now, characteristically and contemptuously, seek to creep away from the consequences of their inhumanity.

Parliament will make no concession to the bully and the bomb. We welcome the additional security measures he has announced and earnestly hope they will grant a greater measure of safety to our people as they go about their lawful and peaceful occupations.

Every effort must and will be made to trace and capture those responsible for Saturday's outrage together with their fellow gangsters. All our people are aware of the risks we face. The only risks that must be accepted if the methods and processes of democracy are to be upheld.

Mr. Brittan: On occasions like this the only way this House is a bastion of protection for us all.

Mr. James Molyneux (Lagan Valley, DUP): On behalf of the people we represent may we offer our deepest sympathy to the bereaved and injured? Will the Government remember that political parties in the Irish Republic and elsewhere share the objectives of the IRA and hope for the attainment of those objectives provides the incentive for continuing terrorism?

Mr. Brittan: I note his observations about the political background.

Mr. Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C): While acknowledging the IRA and hope for the attainment of those objectives provides the incentive for continuing terrorism?

Mr. Brittan: That course has been followed in the past. Those who have been responsible for these matters concluded that its termination was desirable, but we will continue to keep all measures under review.

The Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, DUP): The people of Northern Ireland enter into real sympathy with those who have suffered through this terrible and diabolical atrocity. For the past 15 years they have passed through this long, dark nightmare.

The resolve of the Government today will be welcomed by the people of Northern Ireland. We trust that the same spirit that was exercised by the Government in the

Falklands crisis will be exercised by them today with the same determination.

Will he appreciate how the people of Northern Ireland at this time view one such terrible incident can cause such an outburst of condemnation, and rightly so, and when the people of Northern Ireland are frequently passing this way of sacrifice and death?

Mr. Brittan: I appreciate that what London saw on Saturday is something which Northern Ireland has had to live with daily.

Mr. Martin Ruse (Leeds South and Morley, Lab): Most people in this country believe that what happened on Saturday was an unprovoked attack on the Provisional IRA in Northern Ireland say they have exposed the cause of socialism, what they have exposed is the cause of national socialism, skin to Hitler.

Nobody who wants a political solution in Northern Ireland agrees with the murders of the Provisional IRA. The IRA, the Red Hand Commandos or paramilitary groups on both sides of the divide. What we object to is murder wherever from or whatever the cause.

long experience and the House will want to consider what he has said.

Mr. Eileen Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C): Parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation, said: I thank the House for the tributes which have been paid to the men and women of the Metropolitan Police and welcome the measures that the Commissioner has taken to strengthen the anti-terrorist force in central London.

Would he review the resources available to the Special Branch and reject those who are seeking at this moment to dismantle the one arm of the police service that has a real possibility of protecting our citizens against this terrible plague?

Mr. Brittan: There is no question of the Special Branch being dismantled.

Mr. Russell Johnston (Inverness, Na h-Eileanan Siar, Lab): I am tracking down the Reader Meinhoff gang in the Federal Republic of Germany the use of identity cards was indispensable in their capture.

Although we have in the House would put up with it if as a consequence it was more likely these evil men would be tracked down and brought to justice.

Mr. Brittan: I would have no hesitation in supporting such a measure if I thought it would make a significant contribution to tracking down terrorists, but I am not yet persuaded that that would be the result.

Mr. Hugh Fraser (Stafford, C): Could we be assured that any talk with either the military or political wing of the IRA would be in Northern Ireland or elsewhere, will be blocked?

Mr. Brittan: No such talks are taking place and no such talks will take place.

Mr. John Hume (Foyls, SDLP): Not for the first time would we describe an atrocity and there are not any more, they have all been used. As an Irishman I am ashamed, and I



Hume: If they are patriots, God save Ireland

We should not act with panic. The dignity of the House today is something we ought to put over. There is no point in detention. In the days of detention there were more murders.

As Secretary of State for Northern Ireland I legalized Sinn Fein because we must leave a chink for political action as much as we disagree with their aims. If we have a plan for introducing identity cards I hope it would be looked at carefully because all the information given to me was that it would be counter-productive.

Mr. Brittan: He is absolutely right to say that we should not act with panic. It is not our task to dignify in any way these men committed for whatever reasons as anything other than the foulest crimes and the most barbaric actions. He has given views from his

believe my shame is shared by Irish people everywhere, that anyone could commit such an atrocity in the name of Ireland.

It is those who planted that bomb are Irish patriots, if those who provided them with the equipment and the plan are members of the same movement are Irish patriots, then God save Ireland.

While an atrocity at Harrods was being committed, a young soldier and a young policeman were murdered in the Irish Republic while doing their duty, a member of the UDR was murdered in Northern Ireland and a young Catholic innocently going home was murdered. The incident at Harrods received international publicity, the murders in Northern Ireland did not. Murder there has become commonplace.

It is from Northern Ireland that the political cancer is spreading its tentacles and that represents that failure of Britain and Ireland to sort out their relationship. That failure has been pushed into a corner called Northern Ireland.

Mr. Brittan: He is right in drawing attention to the wider dimensions of terrorism affecting Ireland on both sides of the border. The right course is to make it clear that what happened on Saturday will do nothing towards a solution.

Mr. Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): I would join Mr. Hume in his sentiments. All Labour MPs share the horror at this barbaric act which slaughtered the people who had nothing to do with the struggle. It just gives a malcontent and vicious twist to an intractable problem.

May I appeal that nothing be said which would be an incentive to any unofficial grouping which would try to engage in similar retaliation across the sectarian divide.

Mr. Brittan: Any attempt at retaliation would be offensive, horrific

and as much to be condemned as what happened on Saturday.

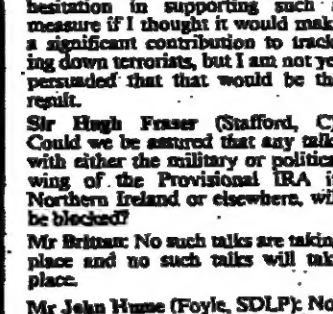
Mr. Brandon Rhy Williams (Kensington, C): My daughter, who was working at Harrods and from what she was saying about the incident I understand that the security practice in the store was exemplary and might have contributed considerably to the saving of life.

Mr. Brittan: The decision of Harrods to search the store and not to pour many people out on the streets saved a great many lives.

Mr. John Wheeler (Westminster, North, C): The statement will be welcomed by the residential and business community of central London because of their determination not to be brought out of their homes and businesses and because of increased police support.

Mr. Brittan: For us to be bombed out of our homes and businesses would be the greatest victory IRA could secure. We shall not allow it to happen.

Mr. Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab): While we all join in condemning this vile and nasty act, will he not take action which could lead to escalating violence in



Dickens: People want capital punishment

Northern Ireland and Britain over the coming months.

In particular, I refer to the demand for prosecution of Sinn Fein which has the support in votes of 42 per cent of the two nationalist electoral. This would be likely to criminalize points towards violence large numbers of young men in that community, as we experienced with internment.

Mr. Brittan: I have no wish to do anything which would lead to escalation. Whether that would do so or not is open to two views, but so far as I am concerned, it is not.

Mr. Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C): Did he hear the broadcast by one of the bravest men who ever sat in this House, Lord Fin, who said that Provisional Sinn Fein were daytime politicians who served the cause of violence and we should seriously consider their proscription.

Mr. Brittan: I heard it. There is room for two legitimate views as to the wisdom or otherwise of proscribing Sinn Fein.

This is a matter we are urgently considering but there are powerful arguments in both directions.

Mr. Geoffrey Dickens (Littleborough and Saddleworth, C): This House has been full of words, sympathy, sympathy, sympathy, country and action. The politicians seldom reflect the views of the country. We should be holding a referendum on capital punishment for terrorists. That is what people want.

Mr. Brittan: I do not think the arguments are affected by what has happened.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Health and Social Security Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Roads (Scotland) Bill, committee. Amusement Machines Bill, committee.

Fitt: IRA are enemies of Ireland and Britain

After the statement had been repeated in the House of Lords by Lord Eton, Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Opposition, said there was unity in expressing their abhorrence at an act which would take its toll in the annals of civil war.

Our common sense and common sense (he said) is that the perpetrators of this vile crime should be brought to justice. Equally are we determined that not one drop of political violence should be gained by the shedding of this innocent blood.

Lord Harris of Greenwich (SDP) said he would be associated with the expressions of horror at the scale of this atrocity. There was no

certain way of protecting Christmas shoppers, but they should take into account the ease with which car bombs could be left outside London department stores which were known to be potential targets.

He added: Could we express the hope that those US citizens who have given money to Northern Ireland and other organizations of the Provisional IRA do take account of what their money has in fact achieved?

Lord Eton said the Metropolitan Police Commissioner was concerned that the need for increased police support to policing central London should not diminish the policing for Greater London as a

Protests at cancelled contract

SCOTLAND

The cancellation by British of its contract with Scot Lithgow for a semi-submersible drilling rig was the subject of exchanges in the Commons as MPs sought either an emergency debate or a statement by a Government minister.

Mr. John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, said the matter would be pursued through the usual channels, the procedure for arranging the business of the House.

Mr. Norman Geddes (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) was first to raise the issue when he unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate or a statement by a Government minister.

He said the whole future of Britain in a key area of high technology in the North Sea was at risk.

Mr. Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Govan, Lab) asked the Minister to make some response to Mr. Dewar's point of order.

He said it was a matter of extreme urgency. If nothing was done this week the contract would be lost.

Gas corporation target agreed

Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said he had agreed with the British Gas Corporation a financial and performance objective for 1983-84 to 1986-87.

The financial target (he said) will require the corporation to earn an average current cost operating profit before taxation and interest, after 1982-83, in unit cost trading costs per therm of gas sold and used at seasonal normal temperatures.

Mr. Geoffrey Lofthouse (Pontefract and Castleford, Lab): Does Mr. Walker expect a concession in the war on inflation to be made by the Exchequer, and who does he expect to be the victor? Mr. Walker: I do not expect concessions. I expect happy, cheerful, contented dialogues. (Laughter.)

£500 for solicitor held in cell

From Our Correspondent Manchester

A solicitor who was detained after he refused to hand over a document given him by a client should not have been put in a police cell, a High Court judge decided in Manchester yesterday.

Mr. David Middleweek, aged 44, who practises in Manchester, was detained by the police against the Chief Constable of Merseyside.

Mr. Middleweek, who was detained for more than two hours in April 1980 before being told in the presence of others that he was being held on suspicion of theft, had claimed damages alleging wrongful arrest, unlawful search, false imprisonment and defamation.

Mr. Justice Eardham ruled that Mr. Middleweek's arrest at Liverpool Magistrates Court was lawful and that there was no malice in relation to the claim for defamation.

The jury found he should not have been kept in a cell for 20 minutes.

The Chief Constable was given a stay of execution for 28 days while an appeal is considered.

Peace lessons find a place in school

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Peace studies are taught in schools in many education areas, according to a survey carried out by Lancaster University.

The research, shows that 11.8 per cent of Conservative and 30.6 per cent of Labour councils have peace studies on the curriculum in their schools. In addition to that 47.1 per cent of Conservative and a third of Labour councils included peace studies under other topics.

The survey was carried out by Dr Paul Smoker, reader in peace and conflict research at Lancaster University and director of the Richardson Institute for Conflict and Peace Research, and Professor Hanns

Driving ban on baronet

Mr. William, Pigott-Brown, who was arrested for a drink and driving offence in his Mercedes at 4 am, was fined £150 and banned from driving for a year at Horsham Road court yesterday.

Sir William, aged 42, described as a director, of Eaton Mews, Belgrave, London, admitted driving with excess

Enormous potential of cable television

HOUSE OF LORDS

The development of new cable systems could pave the way for the growth of a range of new services for economic, industrial and social life, Lady Trampington, a Government spokeswoman, said when she moved the second reading of the Cable and Satellite Bill in the House of Lords.

The Bill establishes a cable authority to license and regulate the provision of cable programme services and enables the IRA to provide direct broadcasting services by satellite.

Lady Trampington said cable and satellite both offered new opportunities to industry in developing the technology and creating it not only in this country but overseas.

It is up to us (she went on) to provide the framework which offers the widest opportunities and greatest benefits to those prepared to apply them.

The cable systems needed both encouragement and regulation but this was the subject of another piece of legislation - the Telecommunications Bill which would also shortly be before the Lords.

The Government's objective was to develop, as quickly as possible, a framework which would make it possible for the cable industry to provide programme services to services that would have to be attractive if cable was to succeed.

The authority would consist of chairman and six members. The Government wanted them to start work as soon as the Bill was enacted and hoped to announce who they would be to the House of Lords when going through Parliament. They would be appointed by the Home Secretary (Mr. Leon Brittan) and obliged to report to him annually.

The authority would be a totally

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Government want 2% price rise

By Peter Hennessy

ELECTRICITY

The Government has decided to introduce emergency legislation to compel the nationalized power industries to increase gas and electricity prices, Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said in the Commons.

He revealed that at a meeting in the morning with Mr. Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, he had put to him the Cabinet suggestion of a 2 per cent increase in electricity prices in 1984, representing a 2 per cent increase over 2 years. That compared with a 2 per cent increase in electricity prices every six weeks under the Labour Government.

There was no possibility of electricity prices going up before the end of the winter, he added, and any increase would be well below half the low current rate of inflation. The gas industry would be announcing their price increases very shortly.

In a clash over electricity and gas prices, Mr. Stansfield, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, said that Mr. Walker, should resign after losing the battle in Cabinet over an electricity price increase.

Mr. Orme said: The Electricity Council does not want any increase. Industry itself needs this proposal like a hole in the head. Certainly the consumer does not want any increase. Above all, Mr. Walker is opposed to any such increase.

There is therefore a major division in the Cabinet. The Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have carried the day. Their reason for this is that the increase is to make the cuts in taxation at the expense of the least well off in our society. Mr. Walker should resign.

Whitehall brief

Nothing new for 'Yes, Minister'

By Peter Hennessy

The big disappointment of the 1983 Keith lectures, delivered by Sir Douglas Warr, former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, is that Mr. Antony Jay, creator, with Mr. Jonathan Lynn, of 'Yes, Minister', did not hear them.

"I find the public utterances of permanent secretaries so predictable and completely interchangeable that I have stopped listening to them", Mr. Jay explained. "It has to do with Civil Service English. You have to squeeze all personality out of it."

Had Sir Humphrey Appleby, of the Department of Administrative Affairs, tuned in? "Humphrey would have seen a draft in advance and, having been invited to comment, would have removed all phrases that carried any meaning", he said.

That is not how Sir Douglas's own folk in Whitehall saw it. The Treasury, for example, was miffed at his suggestion that the Cabinet remained at a disadvantage on economic affairs because the Chancellor of the Exchequer "keeps his powerful

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Enormous potential of cable television

HOUSE OF LORDS

The development of new cable systems could pave the way for the growth of a range of new services for economic, industrial and social life, Lady Trampington, a Government spokeswoman, said when she moved the second reading of the Cable and Satellite Bill in the House of Lords.

The Bill establishes a cable authority to license and regulate the provision of cable programme services and enables the IRA to provide direct broadcasting services by satellite.

Lady Trampington said cable and satellite both offered new opportunities to industry in developing the technology and creating it not only in this country but overseas.

It is up to us (she went on) to provide the framework which offers the widest opportunities and greatest benefits to those prepared to apply them.

The cable systems needed both encouragement and regulation but this was the subject of another piece of legislation - the Telecommunications Bill which would also shortly be before the Lords.

The Government's objective was to develop, as quickly as possible, a framework which would make it possible for the cable industry to provide programme services to services that would have to be attractive if cable was to succeed.

The authority would consist of chairman and six members. The Government wanted them to start work as soon as the Bill was enacted and hoped to announce who they would be to the House of Lords when going through Parliament. They would be appointed by the Home Secretary (Mr. Leon Brittan) and obliged to report to him annually.

The authority would be a totally

Protests at cancelled contract

SCOTLAND

The cancellation by British of its contract with Scot Lithgow for a semi-submersible drilling rig was the subject of exchanges in the Commons as MPs sought either an emergency debate or a statement by a Government minister.

Mr. John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, said the matter would be pursued through the usual channels, the procedure for arranging the business of the House.

Mr. Norman Geddes (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) was first to raise the issue when he unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate or a statement by a Government minister.

He said the whole future of Britain in a key area of high technology in the North Sea was at risk.

Mr. Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Govan, Lab) asked the Minister to make some response to Mr. Dewar's point of order.

He said it was a matter of extreme urgency. If nothing was done this week the contract would be lost.

Gas corporation target agreed

Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said he had agreed with the British Gas Corporation a financial and performance objective for 1983-84 to 1986-87.

The financial target (he said) will require the corporation to earn an average current cost operating profit before taxation and interest, after 1982-83, in unit cost trading costs per therm of gas sold and used at seasonal normal temperatures.

Mr. Geoffrey Lofthouse (Pontefract and Castleford, Lab): Does Mr. Walker expect a concession in the war on inflation to be made by the Exchequer, and who does he expect to be the victor? Mr. Walker: I do not expect concessions. I expect happy, cheerful, contented dialogues. (Laughter.)

£500 for solicitor held in cell







Hope is all but dead for many Lebanese. Every day sees a new boatload of them leaving their homeland; families who never want to see their country again, who have given up all hope. But in his concluding article from Beirut, Robert Fisk finds that kindness and hospitality still exist alongside the horror

# Escaping from the human zoo of hatred

The Lebanese are always talking about the need to get away from their despair, and at first you wonder why they don't travel into the mountains. True, the old watering holes of Bhamdoun and Aley are battlefields, but it is not difficult to find an excuse to go further north. There are US missiles at Aqoura, according to a leftist newspaper, so we drive off in the early afternoon, turning up from the Mediterranean and climbing into the Sierras where the air turns cold and the road becomes a frozen, muddy track.

Along precipices by the snowline the Laqlouq mountains appear on our left then twist round and return mischievously on our right until, across a little ditch, there is an entire Roman temple, the guttering off its roof, the hand-carved tablet of an Aurelian legion lying on its side. A Lebanese soldier offers us coffee in a damp tent he will be wearing an American marine uniform soon - all his men will - and he says it makes them feel confident.

We climb higher where the air gets rarer past Phoenician caves in the frost. There are no missiles. But then, there in the clouds on a plateau, we almost drive into a squadron of heavy tanks, hulls down in the mud, barrels pointing through the fog towards us, Lebanese troops across the road, rifles at the ready. How do you escape from Lebanon?

It happens all the time, this sudden contrast of light and darkness. It is June, 1982. The Israelis are advancing up the Arqoub and the incoming shells are vibrating through the ground, but when we stop to ask a man the name of his village, his young wife runs out and asks us into their home for coffee - good, kind people who demonstrate how strong are the ties of hospitality and generosity, even at moments of great danger. We sit in the darkened front room, staring at each other, listening to the shells slamming into the ground, smelling the cordite. How could such people allow Lebanon to slip so far?



Two little girls watch as palls of black smoke rise above a bombed petrol depot in Tripoli

## She complained my clothes smelt of death

Months later, further north, we are driving through the Bekaa, (rpt Bekaa), turn a corner and there are hooded gunmen across the road. Nothing is so concentrating to the mind as the sight of a man in a hood. Executioners wear hoods. One of them comes to the car window. His hood is a large glossy red bag with an open zip for his mouth and two crude slits for his eyes.

"British journalist," I hear myself say and he wants to know the politics of *The Times*. He starts a discussion, right there on the open road in his hood with his gun in his hand, on the ethics of press freedom. When I tell him the pen is mightier than the sword,

he smiles. I know he is smiling because through the slits I can see his eyes narrow slightly. We can go.

To the Lebanese now, this sort of thing is the presentiment of fear, that calculated moment when a country self-destructs and produces something quite dreadful amid the mindless and the beautiful. How does one otherwise account for a visit to Baalbek to meet Hussein Moussawi, whom the Americans suspect planned the October bombings?

A Lebanese who knows the road well claims that travelling from Baalbek to Beirut is like going from the jungle to the zoo. He's right. There was a man who turned up with a coffee stall outside the Chatila Palestinian refugee camp three hours after the massacre, knowing that those who had to 'bury the dead would be thirsty. Fifty pence a cup. Hard times.

They say that the children of Beirut need more and more psychological

help, though there are those who suspect it may be their parents who need assistance. We all suffer from bad dreams. After Chatila, I woke up convinced there were corpses stacked on my bed. In the morning Ayesha, my cleaning lady, who once protested about the din of shellfire while washing my floor, complained that I had been in the camps so long my clothes smelt of death. In a nightmare once, a jet flew right through my bedroom wall and out the window.

Most troubling of all are the unanswered questions. Nothing quite like Lebanon has ever happened before. Perhaps none realize this more painfully now than the army which came into the country so blithely and at such cost in human suffering in the summer of 1982. The darkness is closing over the Israelis, too, in Lebanon, and their fear is also palpable on the cold roads to the south, unsmiling, waiting to be attacked.

Then someone breaks the pattern and a soldier becomes a human.

Just south of Damour an Israeli is sitting on a office swivel chair atop a bank of earth, but he walks over to our car because he sees a colleague and his child in the back seat. The little girl is seven and is mesmerized by the soldier's rifle. The Israeli leans into the car and shakes her hand. "My name is Isaac," he says, and you can tell he wants to be smiled at. We wish each other safe home. Long after the Israelis retreated out of Damour Isaac's chair remained perched on the earth-embankment. Now, when we are driving up the road through shellfire, we know we are halfway to safety when we see Isaac's chair.

Do the armies of Lebanon possess any poets to catalogue their journey down their long, profound dull tunnel? Perhaps we meet them. We are in the Chouf foothills and come across an Israeli armoured unit bivouacked

beside an olive grove. The officer shouts at us to go away, but one of the soldiers is very young, he has a big, open face full of friendliness and asks the girl travelling with me to take his photograph as he sits on his armoured vehicle. She does and he gives us his address, but when we later develop the picture it comes out a curious sepia brown and the young man's hair style looks strangely old-fashioned. His armoured personnel carrier, a relic of Cambrai rather than Lebanon. Is this really the young man we met? We send the photograph off to Israel and wonder if he is alive.

Is it only Lebanon that can turn Clausewitz on his head and make diplomacy the logical extension of war, a country in which political dialogue is a possible, though not probable, outcome of bloodshed, in which a group of bored, largely old men can meet at last in Geneva and conclude only that their country is Arab (then disagree afterwards)?

Each day now, a ship, a converted British Rail ferry called the "Earl Curline", steams past my window for Cyprus, butting into the winter storms off the Corniche. In the old days it carried the Lebanese who merely wanted to escape the war while the airport was closed. Now it is carrying many of them away forever, families who never want to see their country again, who have given up all hope.

## There are more portents of a titanic upheaval

From the boat, you can just see the old Crusader castle at Byblos, one of the oldest inhabited towns on earth where we still go on Sundays to sit in the Roman and Phoenician ruins. It is a gloowering autumn day and the rains have washed away the mud above the Byblos rocks. From the soft earth, we are pulling fractured pieces of old Greek jars, with dark painting round the lips, and small bits of mosaic of delicate greens and whites and light reds. And then there is one distant burst of gunfire from far to the south-east, from the Metn hills or the Chouf, and even the old curator who is watching us turns away.

The historian cannot be analysed. It is like that, isn't it? In *The Cherry Orchard* when Madame Ranevsky and her friends are packing and there is a distant breaking sound as if a cable in a mineshaft has snapped. You expect these moments more and more frequently in Lebanon these days. Portents of some titanic upheaval are coming. In the past, we dismissed them. Now it is not so easy.

## Tomorrow The making of bestseller

This recognition of marriage as being strategic to demographic growth, has led E. A. Wrigley, Professor of Population Studies at LSE, and Roger Schofield to start work on a complementary volume to their important *The Population History of England 1541-1871* (Edward Arnold, 1981), which was an aggregate analysis: it counted the total of events - births, death and marriages - and was based on a study of 404 parishes.

Wrigley and Schofield's new work uses a different technique of nominative analysis which depends on being able to identify individuals in family reconstruction. Using the parish registers of some 20 parishes from 1538, when such records were first kept, until the mid-nineteenth century when the census started to schedule individual households, the authors have selected places which represent as wide a spectrum as possible. They are studying remote, upland agricultural parishes, where the economy was being transformed by proto-industrialisation, and also small market towns, to trace changes in the institution of marriage in the early modern period.

Why does housing vary from region to region? Why were self-contained houses or cottages or terraces built in England and Wales whereas the pattern in Edinburgh and Glasgow was tenements? And what was the effect of this? These are the sort of questions social historians are asking as they turn their attention to housing - traditionally the preserve of the economic or architectural historian - in an attempt to get away from the view that housing is simply an investment in bricks and mortar.

Martin Daunton, in his book on working-class housing (1983) and John Barnett, in his research, see houses as the containers of social life and consider the articulation of space within them: the strict segregation in the nineteenth century upper- and middle-class houses between adults, children and servants, and the reintegration of this space in the twentieth century. David Englander charts the social conflicts that arise from housing in his book *Landlords and Tenants in Urban Britain, 1838-1918* (1983).

Juliet Gardner



Doctors dissect a corpse: a Hogarth drawing

## FINDINGS

A series reporting on research Social History

### Cottage industry

A nineteenth-century artisan's cottage, belonging to Ruskin College, Oxford, houses the new History Workshop Centre for Social History. It is an appropriate home for such a venture. History Workshop was launched at Ruskin College in 1967 to encourage working men and women from the labour and trade union movements to engage in research and construct their own history and, although the movement has broadened its compass since then, its research has a particular emphasis on the experience of labour history, local history and oral history.

The Centre, which will organize seminars and research projects throughout the country, and will also work with centres abroad such as the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris, the Max Planck Institute, Göttingen, and the Ragionieri Institute in Florence, will have the same aims as the History Workshop has always had: to eliminate the divisions between the "production" and "consumption" of history, to widen the scope and direction of history teaching in schools, to act as a social history research centre for part-time historians and local groups, and to associate scholars and researchers in collaborative projects.

Its researchers will continue the preoccupation with the history of gender division, family and home, and the Centre intends to become a focus for the study of the history cultures that go to make up Britain.

### Cartoon catalogue

A grant from the Leverhulme Trust has enabled the Centre for the Study of Cartoon and Caricature at the University of Kent to begin the considerable task of indexing and cataloguing the cartoons of that creator both of "Joan Bull", the new, modern woman of the 1920s,

Low's Joan Bull stifles a yawn in the cause of peace in 1929



and the last remnant of the British Empire spirit, the choleric Colonel Blimp. David Low, The Centre, set up 10 years ago, now houses more than 60,000 original drawings of cartoons published in the twentieth century, and the curator and Research Fellow, Jim Schoff, believes that it is not only political cartoons which are valuable sources for the assumptions of their age. Consequently the Centre has holdings not only of the work of such cartoonists as Vicky, Strube and Will Dyson, but also representatives of the social comments contained in Carol Day, the Flutters, Flook - and, of course, Andy Capp.

### Marriage factor

Historians used to assume that population growth in Europe was the result of rising birth rates and falling death rates. Now, however, it is recognized that the principal control on population growth has been changes in the institution of marriage. Unlike birth and death, the decision to marry was always sensitive to social and economic changes for in Western Europe, marriage and economic independence were closely related.

## Home front handicap

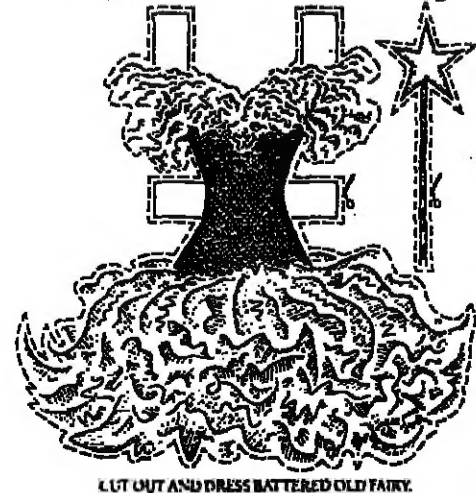
War is too important a subject to be left to the military historians, and so social-history research continues to concentrate on the impact war has on society. The Social History Society conference in Sheffield in the New Year takes "War and Society" as its theme. Two of the plenary sessions will be taken up with the effects of "total war" - that is, war in which participation is not limited to those soldiers fighting, but involves the entire civilian population.

Dr Clive Emsley, of the Open

University, is using the model of Britain and France during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars - arguably the first example of "total war" - to dispute this idea of the "participation by social change: women getting the vote, and increased job opportunities, for example, after the First World War.

Dr Emsley joins the growing band of historians like Martin Pugh at Newcastle and David Englander and Tony Mason, authors of *War and Politics: the Experience of Servicemen in Two World Wars*, which Macmillan are bringing out in the spring, who are sceptical of the participation-reward equation, are inclined to think that the First World War, far from advancing the cause of women's suffrage, retarded

A free new outfit for anyone too mean to serve Smirnoff or buy a new fairy.



LIT OUT AND DRESS BATTERED OLD FAIRY.

SMIRNOFF

IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

moreover... Miles Kingston

## Vintage words of 1983

Like everyone else, we've been asking personalities of 1983 to name their favourite reading matter from the last twelve months...

Lord Dacre of Henry: I was tremendously impressed by Atila, the Hun's personal journals, published privately somewhere in East Germany. They go a long way to showing that Atila was not just a military leader of genius, he was also a fine writer and linguist, as the diaries are written in perfect English on W. H. Smith reporter's note pads, which are not previously known to have existed at his time. Thrilling, extraordinary stuff, and I am privileged to have been able to see them, if only for two minutes.

I have also seen a book called *Good Times, Bad Times*, which relates such far-fetched people that I am bound to conclude it is almost certainly a crude fake. Thrilling stuff, all the same.

General Galtieri: My favourite reading has been the *Annals of the Argentine Law Society* (Vol XVII: Courts Martial). What a tale of injustices, of martyrdom, of wrongs unrighted. My only criticism of the book is that there is no mention of my own forthcoming court martial, which of course I shall be reporting exclusively for *Moreover*. So, stand aside, St Joan! Move over, Edith Cavell! I also very much enjoyed the memoirs of Sir Harold Evans, whose junta fell at about the same time as mine.

Dr Sir Roy Strong, VA and bar: I was absolutely bowled over by the first book of photographs by Prince William, probably the best of the current crop of royal photographers. Of course, the Royal Family have always had tremendously talented male figures. Have you seen the Albert show yet? Breathtaking. Do come along. You'll easily get in. Any trouble, and just mention my name.

Oh, and I thoroughly enjoyed Harry Evans's latest thriller, *Murdoch Most Foul*. Geoff Boycott, taking to Rene McGriff: Stunned. That is how I felt when I heard the news. The unbelievable news that shocked a nation. The news that I, who had served Yorkshire man and boy for over 1,000 years, was being dropped like an old sock that the dog no longer wants.

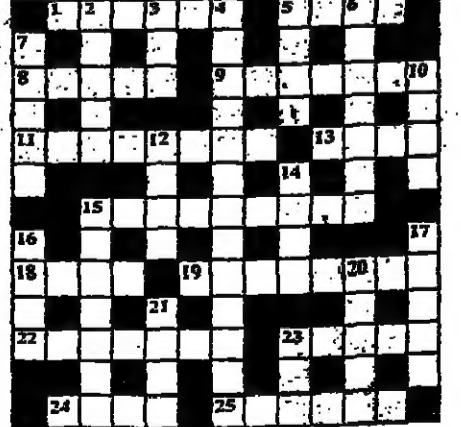
As my mind slowly took in the unimaginable, I thought of other great misunderstood heroes of our time. I thought of the books I had enjoyed so much this year by Peter Hall, General Galtieri, Desmond Wilcox and others, and I felt I was not alone. I also enjoyed Harold Evans's account of life at the top, *250,000: Politics Declared*.

Lord Peter Hall of the National: I have had no time this year except for the writing and reading of my own diaries, but my goodness what an achievement! The scope and vision of this epic work encompasses today's troubled world as does no other work of art except perhaps *Seberg*, for which seats are still available. Curiously enough they both share a central figure, martyred and misunderstood by inferior forces. I wonder if my diaries would make a good musical? Well, stranger things have happened. Especially at the National.

I have also enjoyed Nurse Harold Evan's autobiography, *Journalism Is Not Enough*.

Sir John Betjeman: Goodness, what a startling query! Which new volumes have I read? Well, these days I get quite weary. And I spend my time in bed. Ever since one Frank Delaney came to see me at my home. A smelly chap, not very bright. Much more frank than I am about. Treated me just like a child. Went away and wrote a book. With a map of me, quite precise. On the cover, if you look. Well, I'd better recommend it. If he needs a few more books. So buy it for yourself, or send it through the post to Uncle Rob. That is all, I think - good heavens! One huge book I can't forget. Written by a chap called Evans. But I've not begun it yet.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 228)



- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS                     | DOWN                    |
| 1 Japanese battle cry (5)  | 2 Advantage (3)         |
| 3 Take off (4)             | 3 Fastening device (3)  |
| 4 Introverted (13)         | 4 Introverted (13)      |
| 5 Trudge (3)               | 5 Mute (4)              |
| 6 Drinking glass (7)       | 6 Unsound reasoning (7) |
| 7 Mistaken idea (8)        | 7 Learn (5)             |
| 8 Willingly (4)            | 8 Rin (4)               |
| 9 Transference (9)         | 9 QC's gown (4)         |
| 10 Fully developed (4)     | 10 Reader (4)           |
| 11 Dutch spirit (8)        | 11 Unconscious (4)      |
| 12 Knotted thread (7)      | 12 Characteristic (7)   |
| 13 Free from restraint (7) | 13 Tot (4)              |
| 14 Unite by treaty (5)     | 14 Fatid (5)            |
| 15 One or other (6)        | 15 Question closely (5) |
| 16 Ignited (3)             |                         |
- SOLUTION TO No 227
- ACROSS: 1 Peccadilloes 9 Ageless 10 Title 11 See 13 Onto 16 Poor 17 Dimple 18 Solid 20 Beam 21 Polite 22 Thin 23 Tara 25 Nib 26 Funn 29 Achieve 30 Necessitate
- DOWN: 2 Ever 3 Crea 4 Doss 5 Lute 6 Outwork 7 Jacob's staff 8 Geryander 12 Elclair 14 Odd 15 Emboli 19 Leisure 20 Bore 24 Avert 25 Nape 26 27 Shut



# FASHION gifts for men by Suzy Menkes

1 Stained glass window patterned cardigan in loden, peat and petrol, £75 from Marcel Lassance Shop, Great Marlborough Street, W1. Also ice, St Christopher's Place, W1. Cookies, Walthamstow, E10. Raffles, Manchester. Cream brushed cotton shirt £25, cashmere tie £19.50, leather riding ribbed knit gloves, brown flannel trousers £49.50, all from Grey Flannel, 7 Chiltern Street, W1. Loden beret by Kangol £25.99 from Gee 2 Covent Garden, Marble Arch and SW3.

2 Denim blue polo shirt and ochre sweatshirt, both £17.50, brick red track pants £26.50, ochre/grey striped socks £2.25, all from (pizz), St Christopher's Place, W1. Leather desert boots £39.99 from Russell and Bromley.

3 Black rubber belt £14.95, grey and black woven ikat shirt £22.95 both from Sprint, 39 Long Acre, WC2, 58a Brompton Road, SW1, 90 and 95 King's Road, SW3 and Chelsea Man concessions Glasgow, Dundee, York, Coventry, Bath. Blue cotton trousers £39.50 from Gee 2, Long Acre WC2.

4 Black watch with fluorescent hieroglyphics by Laurens £45 from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street, Covent Garden, WC2, 23 Avery Row W1, Byard Lane, Nottingham.

5 Graphic black and white sweater, also khaki/white £75, checked scarf £49, both by Giorgio Armani from Gee 2, Long Acre, WC2, Marble Arch, King's Road, SW3. Cotton dress shirt £10.99 from selected Marks & Spencer stores. Black silk bow tie £7.15 Liberty. Grey herringbone trousers with blue pinstripes £29.95 from Sprint, 39 Long Acre, WC2, 58a Brompton Road, and Chelsea Man. Patient face-ups £35, Hobbs.

6 Original 1950s paisley shirt £10 from Covent Garden shop only, whipcord paisley waistcoat £35.99, cord plait waist trousers £42, studded leather belt £21.95, tortoiseshell glasses £20. All from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street, W2, 23 Avery Row, W1 and 10 Byard Lane, Nottingham.

7 Navy suede slippers with gold imperial print by Jean Muir for Men, approx. £43 from Campus Group, Oxford, Nottingham, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow, John Cotton, Glastonbury. Socks Liberty.

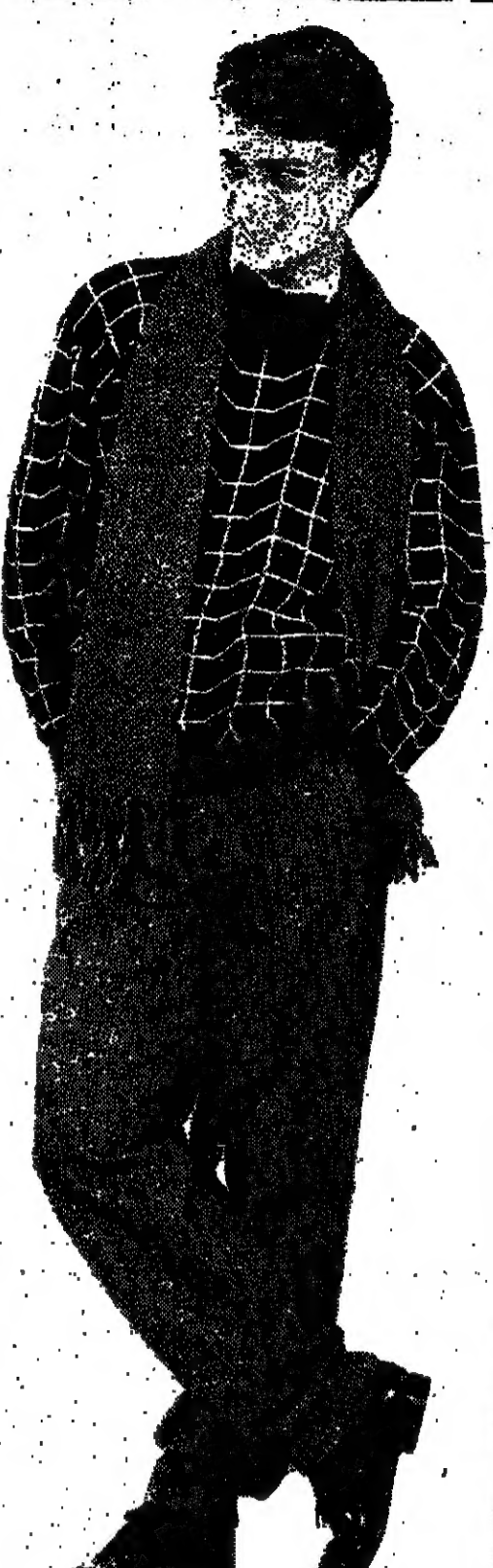
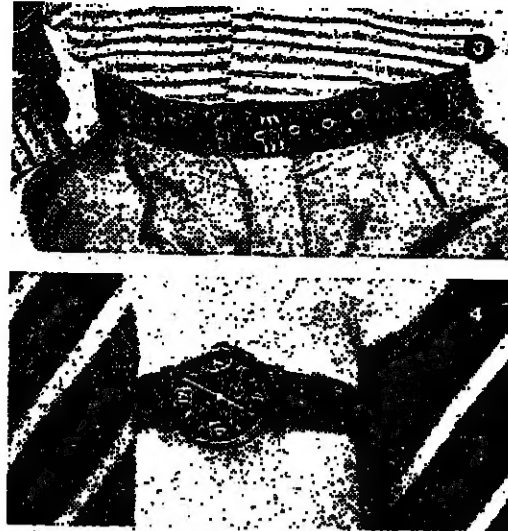
8 Oxblood leather brogue £29.99 from Hobbs sale, South Molton Street, W1. King's Road, SW3, Hampstead and Guildford. Socks from Liberty. Fleck tweed trousers £29.95 from Sprint, Long Acre, WC2, Brompton Road, SW1, King's Road and Chelsea Man.

9 Tan leather face-up shoes £39.99 Russell & Bromley, 24 New Bond Street, W1 and branches. Mixed tartan trousers £79, peach socks £5.25, Paul Smith 43/44 Floral Street, WC2 and branches.

10 Jean Muir for Men claret red moiré silk robe, also navy and grey, £250 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1, Browns, South Molton Street, W1, The Campus Group Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Nottingham, Oxford. Matching moiré slippers by Jean Muir from Campus Group, John Cotton Glastonbury. White wing-collar dress shirt £36.95, paisley silk bow tie £3.75, silver ball cufflinks £11.95, all from Hilditch & Key, 73 and 37 Jermyn Street, SW1. Silk socks £8.95 Liberty. "Balfour" corner unit from Habitat.

11 Mustard wool chunky sweater £42, check scarf £5.50, rubber studded gloves £5. All from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street, WC2, Nottingham. Irish tweed hat £19.50 from Grey Flannel, 7 Chiltern Street, W1. Tweed trousers £29.95 Sprint, Long Acre.

Fashion by CHRISTINE PAINELL. Hair by Gary at Molton Brown. Photographs by RUSSELL MALIKIN.



Knowing your own image is the secret of style and the essence of present giving. Buying for men is traditionally supposed to be difficult because there are fewer first class male gifts. But the conventional ideas - scarves, socks, slippers and sweaters - can have an edge of style. For men to buy themselves, or receive from their loved-ones, here are a sackful of ideas for Christmas.

## ACTION MAN

Whites Xmas... white tennis belt with Gucci motif £8 from Gucci, 27 Old Bond Street, W1. In the bag... heavy duty Barbour bags £19.50 from the Country Shop at Austin Reed, Regent Street and branches. Ski-mas... Carrera's wrap round goggles £23, curved black and white sports sunglasses by Porsche Design £40, both from For Eyes, 21 James Street, Covent Garden WC2, 16 High Holborn WC1, 97a Golden Square Road NW1. Feeling rosey... freshen up with Goya's soap on a rope (£2.35), Body Splash (£2.30) or the Cedar Wood After Shave Atomiser (£1.99). Wolf in sheep's clothing... stone grey ribbed Jacob's wool sweater £33.95 from Moss Bros, Covent Garden and branches. Order of the bath... Givenchy's blue and white cotton quilted wrap towelling lined £85 from Harrods. Low dives... Porsche's Ocean watch in iridescent titanium, waterproof up to 2,000 metres. Price £1,200 from the Porsche shop at Harvey Nichols.

## CHIC

Cutting a dash... Hilditch and Key's cut-away collars on neat flag-bright red, white and blue striped shirts, from £29.95. Extra cover... marbledized handle on the Aramis umbrella free with two or more fragrance purchases. From Aramis counters at Debenhams, Harrods, Selfridges. Bow peep... traditional foulard silk bow tie £25.50 and matching handkerchief, both from Alfred Dunhill Ltd, 30 Duke Street, Saint James's. Getting ahead with a hat... tribbles and toppers, bowlers and mobster hats, all from Moss Bros, Covent Garden.

Waist not waist out... burgundy lizard skin belt, also black, £65 from Alfred Dunhill, 30 Duke Street, Saint James's. Three piece sweet... elegant brocade waistcoats for day or evening suits £200 in fabrics to order from Tommy Nutter 18/19 Savile Row, W1. Reactionary chic... embroidered waistcoats, silk cravates, tapestry braces, top hats, tie pins and studs. All from stands at Antiquarius, 135-141 King's Road SW3.

## MODERNIST

Tough as steel... stainless brushed finish and gold plated bezel tie bar £25, Cufflinks £35. Millennium bold faced watch £325, all from Alfred Dunhill, 30 Duke Street, Saint James's. Earning your stripes... Van Heusen's 100 per cent cotton shirts with red, grey and white stripes and white collar, £23.75 from major stores. Geometric... alpaca mix geometric sweater with Alcantara trim £59 Selfridges. Skin deep... elegant silver and grey packaged Clinique's Skin Supplies for Men fitness and grooming products. From Harrods and major stores. Square face... Gucci's name round the face of a gold plated quartz watch with white, black or champagne face £195 from 27-Old Bond Street W1. Sock it to him... cotton and lisle fancy socks in a rainbow of colours £3.50 from Austin Reed, Regent Street and branches. Warm hands, warm heart... Armani's cashmere and leather gloves £30 from Browns, 27 South Molton Street.

## COOL

Vintage brew... silver and black thirties cuff-links £5 to

£10 from Paul Smith, 43/44 Floral Street, 23 Avery Row W1 and 10 Byard Lane, Nottingham.

New geometry... Pringle's bright graphic patterned sweaters £39 from the sports department at Austin Reed.

Spots before the thighs... Crolla's pink and white spotted boxer shorts, from a selection of fancy pants £11 from Crolla, 35 Dover Street W1.

Heart on your feet... hand-knitted socks scattered with hearts in fondant colours £12. Multi-patterned Missoni socks £15. Both from Browns, 27 South Molton Street.

Close shave... Gillette's stylish stainless steel and black Contour razor £1.20. Paisley prints... silk and wool

scarves £16.95 and matching bow ties £6.50 by Comfort. Armani silk tie scarves £39.50. Both from Liberty.

Half-raising... Molton Brown's seaweed setting lotion £3.15 for 300ml from Molton Brown, 58 South Molton Street.

## FUN

Christmas stockings... red cotton socks with Xmas tree motif from a selection of fantasy socks, £11 from Crolla, 35 Dover Street W1.

Boxing clever... Johnny Lamb's fantasy patterned boxer shorts, including dots, flowers and patchwork, £16 from Brown's Man's shop. Back to front... reversible

leather belts from £9.50, school boy stripes £4.95 from Jaeger. Poster paint bright... fringed lambswool scarf in 42 colours from fuchsia to cobalt £19.50 from Harrods.

Night stripes... Liberty print fine striped tana lawn night shirt £33 from Liberty, Regent Street W1.

Rainbow-coloured... watches in red, blue, yellow and black £18.95 from Austin Reed, Regent Street and branches. Holly and ivy... canvas and pigskin red and green striped belt £45 from Gucci, 27 Old Bond Street W1.

Little black dressing... Anne Tyrrell's evening collection in Harrods After Six department is produced by Ronald Joyce.

## SHOPPERS' DIARY

Anne Beckwith-Smith, Lady in Waiting to the Princess of Wales, was reconnoitering the jewels at the opening of Hennell's new Bond Street shop on Tuesday.

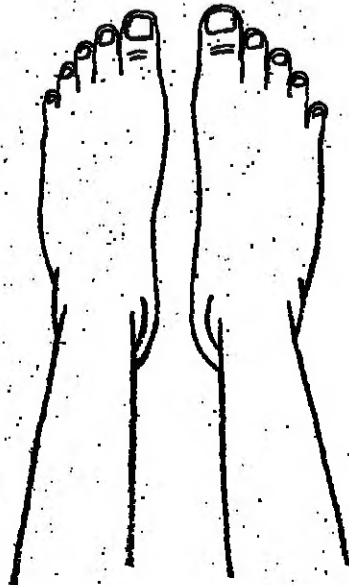
The glamorous young Duke of Westminster unveiled the stunning collection of jewels which included sapphires as big as the Ritz - a copy of a flower diamond necklace made by Hennell's for actress Joan Crawford in the 1930s.

More discreet (and definitely more regal) was a diamond necklace that once belonged to Empress Eugénie

and a drop pearl and diamond Russian tiara that attracted the enthusiasm of several of the guests including Lord Lichfield's wife Leonora and Anthony Andrews.

[?] Over in Fulham on Monday, I bumped into Princess Michael of Kent doing her Christmas shopping for another kind of jewelry at Rutler and Wilson. The princess in mauve tweed trimmed with lilac fur, was drawn to earrings of the same colour - part of the delicious collection of paste that twinkles in this Aladdin's cave of fashion jewelry.

We're not allowed to tell you anything about Winston cigarettes, so here's a couple of stocking fillers.



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We wish to extend the Greetings of the Season.

Gifts that will be worn and cherished.

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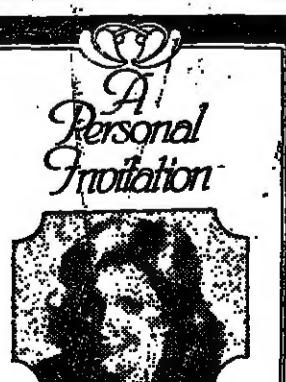
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## THE TIMES DIARY

### For David read David

David Steel has not been able to find the time to address the Liberal candidates' annual conference at Trinity College, Oxford next month. After Steel turned down the invitation, Alan Watson, chairman of the Liberal Candidates' Association and the party's president-elect, asked David Owen, who accepted with his usual alacrity. However it doesn't look as if Owen is planning a takeover. Last Friday he spent £96.95 in Hachards of Piccadilly on a selection of books including William Manchester's *One Shining Moment*, two copies of *A Social History of England* by Asa Briggs and four of Nigel Calder's *1984* and *After*. He deliberated hard and long over a biography of Lloyd George but left without buying it.

### Sacrifice for art

The Royal College of Art receives more than £30,000 a year from charging applicants an administration fee of £20 each to apply for post-graduate courses. Similar applications to the Courtauld Institute are free. The RCA says that, unlike the Courtauld, it has to pay "heavy postage" for returning portfolios out of London. The £20 fee is not returnable if you fail to gain a place; neither is the £2 charge for the prospectus.

### Off-target

A plan to twin with a local authority in Russia or another Eastern bloc country has been approved by Kirkcaldy Council, West Yorkshire. The idea, originating from the council's peace committee, is not universally appreciated. The Conservative group leader, John Holt, has said that if the council wanted to make a gesture to communist Europe it should twin with a town which, like Huddersfield, Kirkcaldy's biggest town, had been declared a nuclear-free zone. However, the Soviet bloc doesn't seem to contain such a town.

BARRY FANTONI



"I'm collecting for unwanted cabbage Patch dolls this Christmas."

### Not to be missed

Eileen Fairweather, this year's winner of the Catherine Pakiz Award, intends to break with tradition when she receives her prize at luncheon today. Instead of a modest "Thank you", Ms Fairweather says she is going to make a speech attacking sexist attitudes in Fleet Street. A case in point, she thinks, was the front-page treatment given to the Brighton boy who was sexually assaulted - "when a girl is attacked it seldom results in so much sympathy and offers of presents". Her own winning article was a piece on King's Cross prostitutes, which appeared in *New Society*. "It's not often", she says, "that a feminist is able to address a captive Fleet Street audience, but I hope to make my case in a reasonably charming and witty way".

### Mullin it over

In the readers' letters column of the current issue of *Tribune*, the editor, Chris Mullin, is angrily attacked for refusing to publish an article by Sarah Roelofs on a meeting between Sinn Féin and Labour Party women. One of several reproving letters carries 23 signatures. This is rough on Mullin, who insists that he didn't even commission the article in the first place. "I only discussed it."



● Oxford University Press has sent out a Christmas card with greetings in 22 languages. The Hebrew greeting is upside down.

### One-nil

Throughout his 13-year career in the House of Commons, Eric Moonman, the former Labour MP for Basildon, never saw his name on an early day motion. Now that he is chairman of Islington health authority, the situation has changed: Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North, mentioned Moonman by name in an early day motion that is highly critical of the authority. Moonman thinks the absurdity of these motions is plumbing new depths.

A recent one put down by an MP for debate congratulated the winners of a football match. "Someone should look at the cost of printing this sort of thing," says Moonman. "It seems to me that if we're not careful, early day motions could be used as a substitute for a congratulatory telegram service."

PHS

# The bombers' blueprint

George Brock looks at the real aims behind the campaign being waged by the Provisional IRA



The day after... the car bomb at Harrods

Callaghan (who advocated an independent Northern Ireland in 1981), most groupings to the left of the Labour Party and a minority of delegates to the Liberal Party annual assembly.

Some Provisional killings have turned out to be "counter-productive" even by their own criteria - most obviously the Birmingham pub bombings of 1974, in which 24 people died. Public opinion appeared to stiffen against any concession towards republican objectives and the attacks were followed by the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The Provisionals have since developed the technique of the slow, relentless squeeze. In 1979, their spokesmen were talking of a politico-military campaign which would last 20 years or longer. This summer, one of them revised the estimate by saying that "we are not so sure that it will take that long."

Bombings and shootings happen at a rate which will gradually accumulate disillusion and the close of opinion other than withdrawal. For the Provisionals who direct, however vaguely, the sequence of attacks, this means only enough violence to remind people that they have not gone away.

It is a curiously cautious strategy, producing a haphazard and attenuated series of outrages. It relies for its effect on the passage of time. It is important for the Provisionals not to precipitate any kind of reaction or climax that will make their squeeze harder to operate. It is in their interest to make Northern Ireland "ungovernable" but not to start a full-scale civil war. Too many bombs detonated too frequently in London would provoke too much government interest and activity in Northern Ireland - a change which might not necessarily lead to withdrawal.

There are several tactical strands within the overall strategy. The Provisionals have established, and maintain, an effective veto on constructive political movement inside the province. Its commanders are careful not to let the rate of violence fall below that minimum which signals to the world that life remains abnormal. The occasional killing of unionist politicians such as Robert Bradford and Edgar Graham ensure that their surviving colleagues cannot do or say anything which might be vulnerable to the charge of appeasement.

Members of the security forces, and particularly local men and women, are assassinated at a steady rate. Such murders are intended to keep up the pressure on the unionist community, to discourage recruits from joining the security forces and to drive Protestants out of border areas. The news of the latest killing was almost obliterated by events in London: a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment was shot dead in front of his 10-year-old son at Maghera, County Londonderry, early on Saturday evening.

The campaign in mainland Britain is aimed at politicians who, it is hoped, will one day tire of paying the human and economic price of staying in Ireland. After the peak of 1974-5, which included the Birmingham and M62 bombs and the string of attacks carried out by the men eventually concerned in the Balcombe Street, there was little Provisional activity between 1976 and 1981 (assuming that Airey Neave was killed by the INLA, who do not follow the dictates of Provisional strategy).

The present phase of bombings began two years ago, shortly after the end of the hunger strike, with the remote-controlled bomb aimed at a coachload of Irish Guardsmen. Bombings are effective morale-booster among the IRA rank-and-file and its leadership may have seen a need to make stronger gestures to their own followers after the hunger strike ended.

The role of bombs such as the one at Harrods within IRA strategy remains most accurately described by an anonymous spokesman for the organization interviewed last summer by the *Dublin magazine Magill*. "Our activity in Britain at any given time is dictated by our ability to strike there. It is still a target because we believe one bomb in Britain is worth 50 in Ireland. However, we do not intend to hold the British people responsible for their government's crimes in Ireland. Any attacks will be limited to the British political establishment and to military targets. And if there was a big growth in anti-war feeling in Britain we would have to revise our attitude."

Philip Jacobson on Washington's growing difficulties in El Salvador

## Will the death squads kill off US policy?

The message was considered so important in Washington that Vice-President George Bush was sent to El Salvador to deliver it in person. He chose the moment carefully - a state banquet in his honour. As Salvadoran politicians and army officers listened with varying degrees of outrage, Mr Bush warned quite explicitly that US aid to their hard-pressed government is now seriously endangered by its utter failure to clamp down on the country's night-wing death squads.

When the American Ambassador to El Salvador said much the same thing in public about a year ago, he was swiftly censured by the White House and subsequently lost his job. Mr Bush went out of his way at the banquet and a press conference which followed to stress that his blunting attacks on the extreme right had prior approval and full support from President Reagan. What's more, the Vice-President declared: "It isn't just the President or me or Congress. If these death-squad murders continue, you'll lose the support of the American people, and that would indeed be a tragedy."

In abandoning its previous, largely fruitless policy of "quiet diplomacy", the US has publicly shifted responsibility for rounding up the killers and the men behind them squarely on to the Salvadoran authorities. As the new American Ambassador, Thomas Pickering, told local businessmen the other day: "We are certain that these individuals are as well known to the security forces as they are to us who have been in the country only a short time."

Officials at the American Embassy are busily leaking detailed information about particularly notorious police and army officers to foreign journalists. Mr Bush has also promised that the Reagan Administration will hunt down vengeful Salvadorans who finance death-squad operations from luxurious exile in Miami.

Better late than never. Yet at the very moment when Washington is flexing its diplomatic and financial muscle in support of human rights in El Salvador, President Reagan has quietly killed off a law which provided the US with its strongest card in dealing with the Salvadoran authorities. Late last month he vetoed a Bill which would have renewed the Administration's obligation to certify to Congress every six months that the Salvadoran regime was doing enough to improve human rights to qualify for further military and economic aid.

Like his predecessors, Reagan guards presidential prerogatives jealously: he was known to consider the certification process too confining. But there had been no indication that he was preparing to torpedo it completely. The State Department certainly regarded certification as a useful, if limited, lever against the wilder fringes of the Salvadoran military. At the very least, it symbolized America's wish to help the defenceless ordinary people who provide the overwhelming majority of death-squad victims. It also provided encouragement for those Salvadoran officials and

soldiers who are struggling - often at grave risk to themselves - to make their poverty-stricken little country a better place for all citizens.

The jubilation with which news of the President's veto was received by the most extreme right-wing groups in El Salvador suggests that they see it as acknowledging that the US will never abandon its client government, however bloodstained. Diplomatic sources there believe that Ambassador Pickering was in favour of maintaining the certification process: only a few days earlier, he had denounced the death squads as "fascists serving the communist cause".

This episode can only reinforce the growing impression that the Reagan Administration is now floundering badly in El Salvador. The President, in particular, seems unable to decide his main objectives. In one recent speech to a group of schoolchildren in the US he suggested that some of the corpses which turn up daily in parking lots and ditches are actually victims of Salvador's left-wing guerrillas, seeking to undermine American support for the regime.

The guerrillas certainly have murdered government officials, local militiamen, occasionally right-wing politicians. But there is no hard evidence whatsoever to support Mr Reagan's theory, while virtually every Salvadoran - and every US diplomat in the country - acknowledges the direct involvement of the security forces.

Some of the key figures in the death squads have already been identified in US newspapers: the

much-feared Major José Ricardo Pozo of the Treasury Police; the intelligence chief of the national police; a provincial army commander. Clear links are also known to exist between known extremists and Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, head of the Salvadoran constituent assembly and the far right's likely candidate in presidential elections next March. It is no secret that the Americans believe d'Aubuisson is closely involved with the murder squads for that very reason, he was recently refused a visa for a trip to the US.

What could the President have been trying to achieve by his dismissive remarks about death squads? State Department officials dealing with El Salvador were agitated at the undermining of their tough line on the death squads. The *Washington Post* accused Reagan of "going a long way toward giving the killer right a free hand and relieving the Salvadoran authorities of anything about their deeds".

A moderate Salvadoran politician considered that the middle ground, already fearfully risky territory, was certain to become even more dangerous. With US military advisers in despair at the failure of the guerrillas on the battlefield and the crucial presidential vote barely three months off, it is becoming increasingly difficult to discern any coherent policy in Washington.

Meanwhile, the bad news for Mr Reagan rolls in. Last week, the Salvadoran assembly finally approved an article for the country's new constitution which effectively

blocks the possibility of sweeping land reform. It was a triumph for the assembly's right-wing coalition, which has bitterly opposed US-backed plans for large-scale redistribution of farmland to the poor. It was also a triumph of blatant intimidation by the death squads. The political debate was accompanied by a ruthless assault on agricultural trade unionists and members of collective farms.

Nine members of one small commune (two of them pregnant women) were kidnapped, tortured and strangled the night before I was due to meet them. Their broken bodies turned up by another co-operative farm, a grim and unmistakable warning. They were exactly the sort of people whose votes are going to be crucial for the election of the moderate Christian Democrat's presidential candidate, the respected José Napoleón Duarte.

All Salvadorans understand - even if some resent it - that sustained pressure from the US offers the only hope of stopping the slaughter of innocent civilians. Duarte acknowledged as much during a speech in Washington last week in which he praised the US for sharpening its public criticism of the death squads. There is a chance that killings will increase during the election campaign, he warned. "The rightists will do all they can to discourage democracy."

Brave men like this, at the sharp end of US policies in El Salvador, have a right to expect consistent and unambiguous support from Washington.



Victim of a death squad: and the killings are likely to increase

Roger Scruton

## Laying down the law

The English legal system is rooted in common law, and decisions made by judges have led to an accumulated weight of tacit legislation which Parliament could overthrow only by destroying the basis of its own legislative competence. Some regret this fact, arguing that judges, since they are not elected representatives, ought not to make law. Others welcome it, arguing that judges, because they are not elected representatives, are competent to make law. No man becomes a judge merely by standing at the hustings and shrieking out his identity with a political party. To become a judge you need to know the law, and to have acquired long experience of its application in the concrete circumstances of human conflict. To become a member of the House of Commons you need no qualifications whatsoever.

At the same time, no judge can take the overarching long-term view of things which we expect (and occasionally receive) from Parliament. It would not so much optimism as irrational wish (with Professor Hayek) that all laws should issue slowly and piecemeal, from repeated applications of judicial reasoning. Although modern statutes are often hastily drafted, crudely debated, and ignorantly understood, it would be absurd to try to govern a modern society without a powerful legislative body able to dictate statutes to the courts.

But the dangers are obvious. How is Parliament to be controlled, and by whom? It is not enough to say: by the electorate. The electorate has a narrow choice between two or three major contenders, and is hardly likely to vote a government out of office for just this or that piece of legislative nonsense. Besides, by the time of an election, the damage may be done. Habits form quickly in politics and, as the history of industrial legislation displays, rights once granted to powerful bodies cannot easily be removed.

The obvious answer is that Parliament must be responsive to judicial criticism. One of the major virtues of the House of Lords is that it contains the highest judges in the land, who may influence the upper house to reject ill-considered legislation, or to introduce proposed amendments. But valuable as this influence has been, it cannot suffice to correct the major defect of the House of Commons, which is its tendency to neglect the detail of human conflict in order to achieve a synthetic perspective, often guided more by ideology than by a concern for truth. The real test of law is in the courts, in confrontation with the human reality. Hence Parliament must listen to criticism, such as was offered on December 6 by the Court of Appeal in its judgment of the *Dimbleby* case. It was persuasively argued that the 1982 Employment Act contains a serious internal flaw which, properly exploited by management, would deprive unions of a power that they ought to have - the power to carry on a dispute with

an employer who has tried to slip out of it by changing his legal identity. Given the importance of judges in determining the character and conduct of our political process, how should a judge be educated? It is a wise multiple of English law that High Court judges should be chosen, not from the ranks of solicitors, whose long-standing personal relations with their clients must inevitably conflict with the objective responsibility towards the law, but from the ranks of barristers, whose duty is to put the law on foot before the facts of human conflict, by making the best possible case for a particular judgment. And it is a further wise principle of our law - though one that is constantly threatened - that the two legal professions should be kept as far apart as is compatible with their constant need to cooperate.

The problem is therefore subsumed within another: how should a barrister be educated? I do not mean after qualifying, when experience is his master, but before qualifying, during the years when he acquires his "formal education". There has been a tendency in recent years for the Bar Council, and its educational arm, the Council for Legal Education, to believe that the main ingredient in a barrister's education should be law. In 1981, therefore, following the report of the Ormrod Committee, it was decided that nobody should read for the Bar who has not obtained either a degree in law, or the diploma in law offered by the City University and the Polytechnic of Central London as a postgraduate qualification. After all, if a degree in law is worth anything, it is to a barrister, and what better qualification could he have?

The prime-sighted view neglects the education of the barrister is also the education of the judge. Common law judges are legislators, with a refined and far-reaching political function, who must be able to perceive both the deadness of dead legislation, and the vitality of new legal solutions. Our common law owes its strength to the creative genius of judges who, by obeying their own doctrines and principles, have generally pursued a more consistent line than the knotty of human conflict that has Parliament. The greatest recent example of this creative genius - Lord Denning - did not read law at university, and displays in his judgments the broad education and culture which, by helping him to enter imaginatively into the conflict before him, have given substance and direction to his strikingly novel interpretations of the law.

How then should a barrister be educated? He needs imaginative understanding, literary competence, and common sense - gifts which some have thought to be acquired through study of the classics, some through the "practical criticism" of the Leavisites, some through philosophy, some as a through history, but none, so far as I know, through law.

William Safire

## Man with a cargo of influence

This is the story of connexion. No hint of wrong-doing intended, just a demonstration of how a billionaire capitalist shipowner - who is also an adviser to the government of China - can gain frequent access to, and perhaps influence, a total stranger who is elected president of the United States.

Fleeing Shanghai when the communists took over in 1949, Yue-Kong Pao started a small trading company in Hongkong, bought an old coal-burning ship, and in 30 years built his stake and his genius for making connexions into a shipping empire to rival that of any Greek or Texan.

On the way he picked up a knightship, transferred his political interest from capitalism to communism, Peking, and was seen two years ago as a takeover threat by Jardine Matheson, the Hongkong business and property empire familiar to readers of James Clavell's novels.

When Ronald Reagan became president, Sir Y. K. Pao applied his connexion genius. The trick was to cultivate Michael Deaver, the presidential aide who controlled Mr Reagan's diary. Pao obtained an invitation to the inauguration ceremony - an easy matter for one of the world's wealthiest men - and arranged an introduction to Deaver.

Soon after, Deaver found himself at a Washington dinner party with Sir Y. K. as a fellow guest. They met socially, Deaver recalls now, as if the social occasion had not been arranged for the purpose of furthering their relationship.

On June 12, 1981 - the same day that the secretary of state, Mr Alexander Haig, arrived in Peking - Deaver ushered Pao into the Oval Office to meet President Reagan. The meeting lasted three of four minutes, Deaver now recalls, minimizing its significance, and he cannot remember the subject discussed.

Reached by telephone in Hongkong, Pao recalls that the meeting lasted about 20 minutes. To a president whose lifelong support of the Chinese Nationalist government in Taiwan was a worry to the People's Republic, Pao the go-between remembers pointing out the need for closer relations between Washington and Peking. During the meeting, Pao the businessman could not resist asking if Mrs Reagan would launch one of his ships.

On September 16, 1982, soon after Reagan's turnaround on arms aid to Taiwan, Y. K. Pao was one of the guests at the White House state

dinner honouring President Marcos of the Philippines. That was the toughest ticket in town, but Deaver delivered. On March 3, 1983, at the dinner for the Queen in San Francisco, Y. K. Pao was there again.

On July 12, 1983, Sir Y. K. was again in the Oval Office. According to Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, this was merely a handshake and a photograph, which is also how Deaver characterizes the visit. But Pao was reported by the *Far East Economic Review* 18 months earlier to have a large picture in his reception room of himself shaking hands with the President. He acknowledges this, and replies in a courteous if evasive manner - why all this detail? - that this visit to Reagan also lasted about 20 minutes, and concerned Mexico.

Deaver's largesse with access to the President has not gone unreciprocated. As advance agent for Reagan's Asian trip last month, Deaver twice visited Hongkong this year, once to scout it as a potential stop (lunch with Pao) and, after Hongkong was removed from Reagan's itinerary, for a launch harbour cruise with 30 guests aboard Y. K.'s yacht.

Wasn't it somewhat presumptuous for a White House aide to take Reagan's reserve jumbo with 25 passengers plus crew to Hongkong for a dinner party? "It was on the way", says Deaver, who was going from Manila to Tokyo. In fact, it was 702 miles out of the way. "Frankly, I stopped in Hongkong to rest myself. We did some pretty hard work, and you've got to have some place to stop and rest before you go on."

An extra stop is not rest, but fun, costly to the taxpayer. For Y. K. Pao, whom Deaver credits with being the first to suggest that Reagan visit China - though that has yet to materialize - it was another great gain of prestige to have a presidential jet stop to his city for the sole purpose of its passengers cruising about on his yacht.

What does the story of this connexion teach us? Because both Sir Y. K., who may one day be governor of Hongkong, and Deaver, who may one day finish writing his diet cookbook, returned my calls, this essay has a benign tone.

This lesson is not merely that this is still a world where a poor man can make a billion dollars. Beyond that, he can reach out to hobnob with and perhaps influence the highest and the mightiest, if he has a genius for making connexions.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## PRICE FOR THE JOB

A standard minimum wage, whether established by trade union agreement or official regulation, is a restrictive practice. Unless it is unenforced or ineffective through being set below the competitive market clearing rate, it results in the withholding of labour from that part of the economy which is subject to wage regulation. It denies jobs to those who seek employment in that sector, while reinforcing a coarctated monopoly, or at least a scarcity of labour in it, to the advantage of those already holding jobs there. The cost of this restrictive practice falls also on consumers unless they can turn to competitive product from factories which escape the restriction on wages - an opportunity which is not often available. It falls much more heavily, of course, on people who are excluded from seeking work in those sectors, though their decisions are seldom taken seriously into account. It is official DHSS policy, for instance, explicitly to discourage the unemployed from accepting employment at wages below those set by collective agreement. They are thus officially dissuaded from pricing themselves into jobs; and the people in Britain who thus suffer most from this restrictive practice, shown up increasingly in the analysis of the unemployed, are the young, the black and the unskilled.

Regulated minimum wages apply to more than 70 per cent of Britain's working population, while statutory wage councils set minimum wages for about another 15 per cent. There is also evidence that in some unregulated activities wages in practice are often linked to those set by trade unions or wage councils.

The major increase in unemployment in Britain cannot be understood without reference to these rigidities, to which trade union action has contributed both directly - through the closed shop and other restrictive aspects of wage bargaining - and indirectly through the influence it has had on government policies. Official attitudes to unemployment seldom take account of the element of wages in considering its alleviation, or how to cope with the poverty trap and the influence on employment of an over-rigid system of benefits.

In Britain over the past ten years there has been both a rise in real hourly earnings and a rise in unemployment, though the connection between these two is either forgotten or wilfully overlooked. In the United States, by contrast, employment has expanded by 17 per cent in the same period, while real wages have fallen, pricing more people into jobs, mostly in the service

sector. At last the moral appears to be getting through to the Government.

It started with Mr Lawson's recent paper to the NEDC, which, by indicating that growth in employment can be expected to predominate in the services, signalled an official end to the long-term obsession with the protection of manufacturing as the source of jobs and economic strength. That obsession held sway in the face of the secular trend in all developed economies away from manufacturing towards service industries and market service employment. The obsession, however, was not satisfied simply by subsidizing manufacturing as a means of easing the social pain of the economic transition to a more service-based economy. It reflected an abiding political belief - against all the evidence - that manufacturing was and should remain, the Holy Grail of economic strength.

Yesterday the Department of Employment published a research paper which proclaimed - as though in surprise - that the chances of young people finding work are affected by the level of pay they receive compared to adults. It followed a discussion paper from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research published in August which put its finger more firmly on the sore point of youth employment and training by revealing that British apprentices earn roughly three times as much relative to adult workers as do apprentices in Germany and Switzerland (60 per cent of adult wages in Britain, 20 per cent in Germany and Switzerland).

That distortion, said the authors, stemmed primarily from market imperfections caused by paying wages in excess of their market clearing level. It arose from minimum wage and social security legislation, public sentiment about what young people should be paid (though how that affected the attitudes of wage bargainers was not clear) and the exercise of monopoly bargaining power on the part of trade unions.

Here we come back to the trade unions and Mr Leon Brittan's speech on the closed shop delivered last weekend. The headlines concentrated on his statement that the closed shop, is itself, however enforced, a flagrant and fundamental denial of individual liberties. That is certainly a sound position of principle. But there is an equally important and urgent economic reason for dismantling it, which he put clearly later on in his speech.

"It has killed existing jobs and prevented new ones from being created. Those who use the closed shop to impose their own price

on their own labour do so at the expense of the profits needed for tomorrow's investment and tomorrow's jobs. And they do so, too, at the expense of all those who might otherwise be employed if the rigid wage structures and restrictive practices which such unions enforce did not apply. That is why there is nothing fraternal about the closed shop."

By November 1984, the trade unions will be required to submit their closed shop arrangements to a ballot among employees, with an 80 per cent minimum requirement. Under the Employment Act 1982 these ballots can be held earlier at the Secretary of State's discretion. The Government is said to be taking stock of that possibility. It should expedite the decision to advance the ballot to an earlier date.

Action on the wages councils should follow soon after, since in 1985 Britain will be able to denounce the ILO Convention which under a 10-year rule covers them. The Government has already recognized how these wages councils tend to price young people out of jobs and says that it is reviewing the matter. An early decision in 1985, should be followed by legislation.

The main legal privileges of the trade unions are derived from legislation in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century when the conditions of the poor were the major topic of debate and it was widely held that the rich were somehow responsible for that condition. It was thought necessary to rectify the balance of power by extending the authority and immunity of collective action by workers in trade unions. By now it must be clear that the coercive and disruptive power of the closed shop, and the economic rigidities which ensue from it, have more than redressed that balance to the disadvantage of the unemployed and to the national economy as a whole.

In two other countries the effects and implications of wage regulation in adversely discriminating against people's employment opportunities have been clearly recognized for many years - the United States and South Africa. Their wage restrictions militate against black employment. How ironic it is, here in Britain, to listen to the arguments against rising unemployment particularly among the young and the blacks without any recognition from those trade unionists who are loudest in their condemnation of unemployment at the bottom end of the scale that the unions themselves are the principal architects of a system of wage restriction which makes that unemployment worse.

## Backing EEC with greater zest

From Mr Andrew Ross

Sir, As a concerned patriot I find myself thoroughly dismayed by the Government's continuing bluster over the price Britain should be expected to pay in order to remain a leading member of the European Economic Community. I understand, of course, that our national spirit, along with our industrial base, has decayed alarmingly in recent years, but it is surely pretty desperate when we cannot, despite massive windfall revenues from North Sea oil, find a few hundred million pounds to stake our claim to a leading role in shaping the political future of Western Europe.

The continuing health of the EEC is no less important to British interests than the continuing health of Nato. If we have really lost faith in the EEC then we should, as a corollary, have doubts about the role of our forces in Germany. I suggest we back the EEC with more zest.

Yours,

ANDREW ROSS,

182 Old Woking Road,

Woking,

Surrey,

December 15.

From Mr Christopher Vajda  
Sir, Whatever one may think of the purpose behind the European Parliament's decision to freeze the Community Budget rebate to Britain and Germany, one is treading on very dangerous ground in suggesting that, failing a solution by March, Britain should withhold part of its contribution to the Community Budget (as *The Times* leader of December 16 appears to be suggesting).

The legality of what the European Parliament has done can be tested before the European Court of Justice. It is, however, quite another matter unilaterally to withhold money that is lawfully due to the Community. There cannot be one law for her Majesty's Government and another law for the NGA.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER VAJDA,  
Avenue de Tervuren, 27,  
1040 Brussels,  
Belgium,  
December 16.

## US and terrorists

From Mr Melvyn Westlake

Sir, It is surely quite remarkable how little condemnation has been expressed by Western leaders over the training, arming and bankrolling by the United States of terrorists intent on overturning the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. It is particularly surprising that the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, has felt compelled to condemn such action, in the light of her known abhorrence of international terrorism.

No single act of foreign policy - not even the invasion of Grenada - has so manifestly undermined United States' claims to the moral high ground in international affairs and, by association, the claims of its allies.

With what credibility can President Reagan or Mrs Thatcher now revile the IRA, the PLO, the Red Brigades or any other terrorist group and their alleged backers, like Libya? Western policy in the international field has indeed sunk to a low level.

MELVYN WESTLAKE,

Rhoda Road North,

Thundersley,

Essex,

December 8.

## Sir Oswald and Jews

From the President of The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Sir, The allegation that Jewish attacks on Moslems were the cause of his antisemitism is like the suggestion that those who attack Satan are the cause of sin.

My father was member of Parliament for Whitechapel and St Georges from 1931 to 1935. He constantly warned of the immediate and eventual effects of fascism, whether in its British or German or any other form. Certainly British Jewry fought Mosleyite fascism from its inception and whether or not they themselves were the immediate target.

A National Front leader once tackled me: "Why don't you Jews leave us alone?" he asked. "If you did, we wouldn't have to be anti-Semitic. We're busy enough dealing with the blacks!"

Plus ça change...

Yours faithfully,  
GREVILLE JANNER, President,  
The Board of Deputies of British Jews,  
Woburn House,  
Upper Woburn Place, WC1.  
December 15.

## European elections

From Mr A. G. Mollett

Sir, The British electorate will be asked to vote on June 14 next year in the European Parliament elections. How many will actually exercise their right to determine who represents them in Strasbourg cannot be forecast, but I believe both the delay in setting the constituency boundaries and the continuation of the "first past the post" voting system for these elections will result in a desirous turnout.

The three boundary commissions - for England, Wales and Scotland - expect to publish their initial reports in mid-January for public reaction before submitting proposals to the Home Secretary by April. With the possibility of legal appeals there will continue to be uncertainty as to whether new boundaries will be fixed in time for the elections.

Political parties and voters will

## Home front on the point of collapse?

From the Director of the Catholic Housing Aid Society

Sir, Charles McKean's frightening comments on housing policy (feature, December 15) raise the spectre of a nation "with a growing rate of mortgage failures, houses collapsing in the streets, and with people on waiting lists having no prospect of being rehoused in their lifetime".

Unfortunately, he is correct. The present emphasis on home ownership is no solution for the millions who lack the money to buy. Nor do present policies provide less well-off home owners with adequate help with repair costs.

Cuts in public investment in housing have hit improvement grants for owner-occupiers as well as council-housing building. As the article points out, the owner-occupied sector now includes the majority of unfit houses and those in need of major repair. A significant increase in public investment will be needed to halt the deterioration of our housing stock in both the public and private sectors.

At the root of the problem, however, is the fact that owners are given no assistance with routine repairs, so that minor problems build up into major ones. Mortgage relief is based on a false premise. It gives inadequate help to those home buyers who need it, and unnecessary help to those who do not. It should be scrapped and replaced with a system of housing allowances which directs help where it is most needed.

If the Government seriously intend to avert the bleak scenario Charles McKean depicts they must

## Reviving Ireland Act

From Miss Hannah Quinn

Sir, A grim reminder of the necessity for a new initiative in governmental policy towards Northern Ireland has been the assassination of Dr Edgar Graham in the grounds of Queen's University in Belfast. Last month (November 14) *The Times* published a letter from another member of the university, Professor Cornelius O'Leary, deploring the fact that a new initiative in Northern Ireland seemed low in governmental priorities.

It is not possible to revive the proposals contained in the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, which is still on the statute book and which provided for two separate states of Ireland, one in the south and one in the north? Each would have its own governmental powers, but could also work together in an "All-Ireland Council" of Ireland to which both states would send representatives, with the further provision that the council could become an All-Ireland

## Prosecution by stores

From Professor Sir Thomas Smith, QC, FRSE, FBA

Sir, I refer to the correspondence in your columns regarding prosecution of shoplifters by stores in England and in particular to the letters from Baroness Phillips (November 24) and from the Director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (December 8).

In Scots law private prosecution is virtually never used and would be almost certainly not be permitted in cases of theft from stores. However, proprietors of stores and shops in Scotland have found that recourse to the civil courts provides a more effective remedy.

If they seek and are granted interdict ("injunction" in terms of English law) against persons who resort to shoplifting, this effectively bars such persons, under sanction of the civil law, from entering again premises protected by the interdict.

The remedy can be made available both against the deliberate

## Examination results

From Mr Max Morris

Sir, It would be a pity if the continuing argument around the validity of the Cox and Marks study strengthened the already widespread impression that the debate is about what kind of school system is best for Britain. It is about nothing of the sort. What is at issue is the superiority of one method or another of using statistics. In other words it is about statistical methodology, not education.

Examination results provide a limited amount of information about individual children in individual schools. Each child's results depend on a variety of complex circumstances and can only be usefully interpreted by those who know him. Each school is an institution peculiar to itself with its own educational lifestyle.

Examination results in bulk provide no basis whatever for

thus not know what the constituencies are until the actual election campaign, leaving little time for candidates to put across policies and to organise effective campaigns in the 'redrawn' or maintained Euro-constituencies.

The delay in setting the boundaries is, however, a minor problem compared with the distorted results which will almost certainly result from the present Government's insistence on maintaining the "first past the post" electoral system in 78 out of the 81 seats allocated to Britain.

If June's general election vote were to be repeated in next year's European election it would provide the Conservatives with 55 seats, Labour 22 and the Alliance one. The Conservatives, with 42 per cent of the vote, would obtain 71 per cent of the seats, while the Alliance, with 26 per cent of the vote, would, on the most optimistic forecast, be left with one representative out of 78.

## Broken marriages and child ties

From Dr Mary Lund

Sir, I am writing in response to the Dean of Durham (December 6) who wanted information to confirm his intuition that two parents can contribute more than one to a child's development.

As he pointed out, there is indeed conflicting opinion and little fact about what benefits children when parents separate despite the numbers of children affected. However, two recently completed studies of children and divorce have begun to fill this gap in knowledge: one by Ann Mitchell at the Department of Social Administration, University of Edinburgh, and one by myself at the Child Care and Development Group, University of Cambridge.

Both studies showed children's wish to have a continuing relationship with both parents after marriage's end. There is no one universal, deleterious effect on children of their parents' separation. Rather it is the way parents resolve matters concerning the children after they separate that may help or hurt them.

If parents do not form some way of communicating which allows access without tension, or if one parent disappears completely from a child's life, then a child may suffer. Social problems at school and reduced academic performance can result. But if parents put their differences aside so they can communicate about the issues they have in common concerning the children, the children will thrive.

Parental cooperation, whether or not in marriage, is the key to children's healthy development. Surely, conciliation services for parents who are separating should be promoted to safeguard the wellbeing of the one child in five who now finds he will not grow up with both natural parents at home.

Sincerely,  
MARY LUND,  
University of Cambridge,  
Department of Paediatrics & Social and Political Sciences Committee,  
Child Care and Development Group,  
Free School Lane,  
Cambridge.

## Trident costs

From Mr Humphrey Buckler

Sir, The news on your front page on December 14 that the cost of Trident would be increased by £1,375m due to the fall in the sterling-dollar exchange rate, is hardly surprising. What is surprising is that the article makes no reference to any measures by the Government to minimise the impact of changes in exchange rates.

Using your figures, sterling is now worth 60 per cent of its dollar value at the time the Trident deal was negotiated. Thus the British taxpayer will either get less defence for his money or funds will have to be found from other sources - eg. education, health, social welfare or rate support.

The rise in the value of sterling was the biggest commercial factor contributing to the Rolls-Royce crisis over RB211 contract. Rolls-Royce was bailed out by the Government and one would have hoped the lesson would have been learned.

A private exporter or importer having foreign exchange commitments will take every possible step to eliminate or reduce exchange risk. As taxpayers faced with this enormous bill we are entitled to know what steps the Government took to mitigate the exchange risk inherent in the Trident programme.

Yours faithfully,  
HUMPHREY BUCKLER,  
46 Blackheath Park, SE3.

shoplifter and the shoplifter in a state of confusion. There is no good reason why the proprietors of a store should be bound to admit to their premises (including any branch in the case of a chain store) persons who have shown themselves disposed to appropriate - whether deliberately or through confusion - goods without permission and who seem likely to continue such activity.

If proprietors of stores exchange information regarding such persons - especially organized groups of shoplifters - for the assistance of each other's security services, other stores at risk may eventually be in a position to seek the same remedy of interdict (or in England, injunction).

Perhaps such a solution would satisfy both Baroness Phillips and Ms Stern.

Civil action is, of course, also available to recover property unlawfully appropriated or its value.

Yours faithfully,  
T. B. SMITH,  
2 Scotland Street,  
Edinburgh,  
December 9.

comparison between one school and another let alone one school system and another. My objection to Cox and Marks, therefore, does not arise from their statistics, perfect or flawed (about which argument will, as precedent shows, continue until the Greek Kalends) but from the quite erroneous conclusions they and their friends draw from them.

Conclusions on whether the comprehensive is better than the selective system can only be soundly based on a study of the total service provided to the community by one or the other. Having worked as a headmaster in both systems I have no doubt that the better service, and by far, was provided by the comprehensive.

Yours etc,  
MAX MORRIS,  
(former Headmaster, Willesden High School),  
44 Coolhurst Road, N8,  
December 8.

I suspect a great number of the electorate will decide in such circumstances that a so-called democratic election has no relevance to themselves.

The final irony is that the Northern Irish will be entitled to elect their three Euro-MPs by an electoral system, based on the single transferable vote, producing a fair result.

This system was introduced and agreed by Westminster to ensure that the political views of the minority population in Northern Ireland were represented; surely it is time that mainland Britain's electorate is also able to be fairly represented in its various political opinions.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY G. MOLLETT,  
18 Lion Gate Gardens,  
Richmond,  
Surrey,  
December 6.

## Broken marriages and child ties

From Dr Mary Lund

Sir, I am writing in response to the Dean of Durham (December 6) who wanted information to confirm his intuition that two parents can contribute more than one to a child's development.

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Sincerely,  
MARY LUND,  
University of Cambridge,  
Department of Paediatrics & Social and Political Sciences Committee,  
Child Care and Development Group,  
Free School Lane,  
Cambridge.

## School performance

From the General Secretary of the Secondary Heads Association

Sir, Your report of social trends in today's issue (December 9) shows very significant increases between 1970 and 1982 in the percentage of school pupils gaining O level passes, particularly in academically rigorous subjects, in numbers staying on to the sixth form, and in numbers going on to further and higher education.

The other significant increase during that time, of course, is in the percentage of those pupils attending comprehensive schools. Perhaps your columnists and leader writers could turn their attention to that.

Yours faithfully,  
T. P. SNAPE, General Secretary,  
The Secondary Heads Association,  
29 Gordon Square, WC1.

## Missing the bus

From Mr William Barrett

Sir, May I suggest that your piece on vanishing buses (December 9) is altogether too gloomy? I realize that the comment of the general manager of Eastern Counties buses is special pleading, but why does he dismiss private operators and community buses as a forlorn hope?

Both systems are working in this part of Suffolk, where the population is probably as small and as scattered as around Swanage or Morley. Is it perhaps possible that we can offer advice to our northern neighbours?

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM BARRETT,  
Pip's Peace,  
Kenton,  
Stowmarket,  
Suffolk,  
December 12.

## Uneminent and trivial

From Mr Ben Weinreb

Sir, But Mr Kingsley Amis's minicab driver (December 17) might possibly prefer to chat to the uneminent Mr Philip Oakes. I know I would.

Yours faithfully,  
BEN WEINREB,  
16 Millfield Lane, N6,  
December 17.

## Status of whales

From the Chairman of Greenpeace International

Sir, I refer to Woodrow Wyatt's review of *Whales: A Celebration*, edited by G. Gatenby (Books, December 8) in which he takes the opportunity to criticise the activities of Greenpeace to protect the great whales.

Would that his optimistic assessment of the status of whales worldwide was true! Unfortunately, he seems to draw his conclusions from sources unknown to those who for years have been closely involved in the scientific study of cetaceans.

There are no reliable population estimates for the "ten major species", nor is there any evidence, with the exception of one or two particular stocks, that the whales are making any kind of recovery from

depletions, much less a "strong" one.

Sir Woodrow Wyatt's portrayal of the International Whaling Commission's record also suffers from inaccuracies. Under the jurisdiction of the commission we have seen population after population of whales, and even entire species such as the blue and humpback whales, hunted to near extinction.

Protection by the commission has often come only after the fact. In the case of the blue whale, for example, IWC did not provide protection until the fishery had collapsed totally.

We must again question Sir Woodrow Wyatt's knowledge of cetacean matters when he speaks of the "white Bowhead whale". There is no such thing; bowheads are black. The reviewer has undoubtedly confused the white whale (or beluga) hunt, which is not regulated

by the IWC, with the Bowhead hunt.

The regulations of tuna fishing in North America to which Sir Woodrow Wyatt refers have been weakened by well-financed industry initiatives. Tuna fishermen are free to kill even fully protected species of dolphins since these are not counted against their quota. Last year they reported a kill of more than the 20,500 allowed by quotas.

Lastly, I would like to point out that Greenpeace actions have never been of any danger to anyone except Greenpeace members and then only when whalers fire harpoons over them.

Yours faithfully,  
D. McTAGGART, Chairman,  
Greenpeace International,  
Temple House,  
25-26 High Street,  
Leaves,  
East Sussex,  
December 8.







# THE ARTS

## Galleries

### Light deceptive mastery

Walter Osborne  
National Gallery of Ireland

Islamic  
Bookbindings/  
Richard Doyle and  
his Family  
Victoria and Albert

Islamic Art and  
Design  
British Museum

Walter Osborne is not exactly a name to conjure with, even in Ireland, his native land. Or he has not been for upwards of 80 years, since his death in 1903, but the splendid show of his work at the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin until December 31 (and then the Ulster Museum of Art in Belfast from January 20 to February 28) is bound to change his standing radically.

Osborne's complete eclipse is curious in many ways. He died young, at the age of 43, but he was not exactly unknown or even a very isolated figure. His formation as an artist was as international as that of any of his English contemporaries, such as Clausen, and he went through the same sort of evolution. Something of a juvenile prodigy, he won just about every prize in sight before leaving Dublin to train at the Antwerp Academy in its days of maximum influence, when he made contact with painters of the Hague School and a number of young English painters who were soon to be important. He was painting in Brittany, along the coast of Normandy, in 1883, along with a host of other painters, and there came under the influence, then almost unavoidable, of Bastien-Lepage in his studies of peasant life and his technique of painting them. He then lived and worked in England until 1892, and built his career very carefully, showing regularly at the Royal Academy, becoming early on an associate of the Royal Hibernian Academy, and being in at the beginning of the New English Art Club.

Thus by the time he returned definitively to Dublin he was well established, and continued to keep up his English and foreign connections. During his last few years he took up

portrait painting, and became beyond doubt Ireland's leading portrait painter (it was generally supposed that Dublin could support only one at a time). The year before his death he was offered a knighthood, but refused. After his death his painting, *An October Morning* was bought as a memorial for the Guildhall Gallery by a group of painter friends and admirers which sounds like a who's-who of young British art at that time. And then, virtually nothing. When Pym's Gallery in London turned up three lovely Osborne's for their *Irish Revival* show last year, few visitors can even have known who he was.

But he was very definitely somebody. Seeing a lot of his work together, one can pick out a number of personal traits which distinguish him from the many others who underwent the same influences at the same time. He soon tired, evidently, of the constraints of the chills, Bastien-Lepage range of colour, and burst into a richness which owes little or nothing to the Impressionists. He particularly loves to construct a picture with the foreground shadowy and the background brilliantly illuminated by the rays of the setting (or occasionally rising) sun, and he has an extraordinary mastery of the shifting, deceptive light of an English or Irish landscape. Some of his portraits, particularly of women and children, are excellent, though there is some evidence that they were undertaken more from economic necessity than from free choice. It is only right and proper that the revival of interest in this whole generation should finally restore his work to the fame it deserves. Today Dublin, tomorrow the world.

In London, as I was remarking last week, most commercial galleries have settled down nicely to their Christmas shows, and it is left to the public galleries to be launching important exhibitions as near to Christmas as this - with the intention, of course, that they shall run happily on over the holiday and into the New Year. Bearing this in mind, the two major shows devoted to aspects of Islamic art do not seem quite so determinedly unseasonable. At the Victoria and Albert Museum there is an extraordinary display of Islamic Bookbindings until March 4 and at the British Museum is a more general show of Islamic Art and Design 1500-1700 (until February 19).

Both shows are the kind of in-house activity that the museums do so well, offering a valuable opportunity to see some of the less familiar possessions, and occasionally some of the more familiar, illuminated by being placed in a new context. The untold riches of the major London museums constantly amaze, and seldom more so than in the Victoria and Albert's bookbinding show, which actually puts everything the museum has in that line on display, to coincide with a lavishly produced catalogue raisonné of the collection by Duncan Haldane, even at £30 heavily subsidised by that admirable organization the World of Islam Festival Trust.

It is, in a sense, a didactic show, in that it sets out to tell us a great deal about the evolution of bookbinding in the main Islamic centres, particularly Persia, Turkey and India. We learn how it was done, with what tools, in what materials. Everything is there with a purpose, and some of the bindings, shown as more interesting than beautiful. But, for anyone whose historical interests are minimal, there is ample compensation in the sheer physical appeal of many of the exhibits: the exquisite marblings, the delicacy of the tooled patterns, the subtle and sometimes rich colouring of the later pictorial examples, elaborately lacquered, from Persia and Kashmir.

The heart of the British Museum show is a stunning collection of objects from the museum itself and the British Library, though there are loans also from the Victoria and Albert and the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin, as well as private sources. Again, there is a sort of didactic intent, since the exhibition sets out to show us just how the Islamic world came together, how the three great empires, Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal, interacted and influenced one another, and what they all made of influences from outside, east and west. Some of the most intriguing exhibits, in fact, are the ceramics repaired, restored or imitated from Chinese originals, and the miniatures, derived from a variety of European sources already admired by Islamic artists and patrons. Again, many of the objects on show are of breathtaking beauty, but, for all the gasps of wonderment, one does



Osborne's affecting view of the child in *Feeding Chickens*

come away appreciating a lot more clearly just how, where and why all these wonders came about.

While at the Victoria and Albert, it will be well worth your while to walk through the newly assembled and arranged galleries devoted to *British Art and Design 1900-1960*: you will have plenty of time to do so, since this is a permanent display, and a source of amazement at the ingenuity of the museum's designers cramming a quest, if not a gallon, into a pint pot without creating too much confusion. But, if you are looking for truly reasonable

fire, the thing to do is to make your way to the Henry Cole Wing, where there is a wholly delightful exhibition devoted to Richard Doyle and his Family (until February 26).

No artist, not even I think Arthur Rackham, has been so completely at home with fairies, elves, sprites and all their kind and kin. Though Dicky Doyle himself did many other things - political cartoons, comic books about the adventures of three accident-prone bachelors abroad and so on - his happy and unassuming knowledge of fairyland has been what most recommends him to

posterity. And, if you think it is easy to define and make convincing the proportions of a fairy queen or a malignant troll, look carefully at these unquestionably accurate records and think again. It also emerges that Dicky was just one of a whole clan of fairy-fanciers, including (though not ending with) his nephew Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose strange credulity about the notorious Cottingley fairy photographs makes an odd footnote to the show. Clearly, as long as there are Doyles about, Tinkerbell will never die.

John Russell Taylor

## Television

### A real mystery

A Talent for Murder (BBC2) was clearly designed as a "vehicle" for Laurence Olivier and Angela Lansbury, although they could hardly have expected that they would be forced to get out and push it. It was an effort for everyone concerned, but especially for those of us who watched until the end: it was a "mystery" story, although the only real mystery was why it was televised in the first place.

Angela Lansbury was not so much made-up as embalmed, but since she was playing the part of a lady thriller-writer, the contemporary equivalent of the Wise Virgin, that was perhaps just as well. Lord Olivier had decided to use his high, quavering voice and on the many occasions when he ex-claimed "My darling!" he sounded as if he were standing at the Wailing Wall. Sometimes actors seem to believe that they can rise above a bad or nonsensical play by being grand or excessively theatrical - it is called being an "old trooper" - but this play does not work on

television, where even the most talented performers can be reduced to the sum of their mannerisms.

Last night's drama was announced as a "co-production", which generally means that it is being directed primarily at an American audience but can be offered to the English during Christmas week, when we get into the habit of watching anything. It was not so much a "whodunnit" as "could it please be done as soon as possible?" Evil daughters-in-law and saturnaline servants kept on walking up to each other and saying "Why? Why? It's all so senseless!" on a set that resembled the circulating library at Harrods - although this drama's only connexion with literature was the line "There's a touch of Lady Macbeth in you". The guilty party was evident from the start: whoever at the BBC believed that this farago of stale clichés could be made at all.

Peter Ackroyd

## Rock

### Optimistic finale

Simple Minds  
Lyceum

Despite their long period of recording inactivity Glasgow's Simple Minds have ended their year with a flourish, a string of sold-out houses and the current hit single "Waterfront" paying tribute to the loyalty of a committed audience while also confirming the band's status as Scotland's leading group.

They began their first London show with a studied version of "Waterfront", an impressive statement of the band's confidence as a live force. Both this and the other new song, "Speed Your Love To Me", are indications of the Minds' mature handling of their material. They have arrived at a sound which manages to be portentous without being pretentious, one that has graduated away from its initial post-Roxy Music influence safely intact.

The centrepiece of Simple Minds' atmospheric approach is the graceful presence and cultured vocal contributions of the frontman, Jim Kerr. His felicitous dancing and clear range automatically drew the listener

into a carefully constructed web of emotional textures that move from the stirring "Glittering Prize" and "Up On the Catwalk" to the more introspective pieces like "King is White and in the Crowd".

Behind Kerr, Simple Minds display a rich array of instrumental colour. The synths and electric keyboards of Michael MacNeil are probably the band's secret weapon and the key to infuse a constant stream of warm textures that allow the music to develop a sense of space.

It is the dynamics and pacing of Minds at their best which lend them a peculiar intensity. Although the guitarist Charles Burchill relies on effects to state the melodies he never resorts to rock clichés.

The high point of the evening was undoubtedly a cathartic version of "New Gold Dream" that meandered into a celebratory vamp of Al Green's "Take Me to the River". It was an optimistic finale to a highly satisfactory and stimulating night from Kerr and company.

Max Bell

## Opera in America

### The first ladies

The second half of the autumn season in San Francisco was distinguished by a parade of prima donnas, which included some notable "firsts": Mariyly Horne's first Dalila and Mirella Freni's first (Puccini) Manon; plus Montserrat Caballé's first American *Giocanda*; Katia Ricciarelli's first American Violetta; and Régine Crespin's first Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein on these shores.

The unquestioned prize was *Manon Lescaut*, conducted with passionate conviction by Maurizio Arena. Ermanno Mauro, as Des Grieux, was a wonder and a joy. He sang in a beautiful old-fashioned Italian tenor which he shifted skilfully from powerhouse to pianissimo. Vicenta Sardoneiro was a suave and sympathetic Lescaut. Renato Capecchi, compelling as always, a slightly overscaled Geronte. But Mirella Freni's Manon was the best I have ever heard. This is an interpretation in which every word and every note have been meticulously studied for the maximum (and authentic) dramatic potential. The whole has been integrated into a coherent and at once vocally voluptuous and historically true.

Katia Ricciarelli sang her first

Violetta in this country with the same male leads (Alberto Cupido and Leo Nucci) she had in the Paris *Traviata* last year. Her vocal tone is still very sure and very sweet, softer, more long-breathed and more gently and movingly sung. But she seems to lack the easy agility and gusto necessary for the gay courtesan of Act I, performs in a very old-fashioned way, and persisted in slowing the pace of the music each time she took it over. Richard Bradshaw did a very unsuitable job of conducting.

Mariyly Horne's first Dalila was undertaken at the persistent urging of San Francisco's general director, Terence McEwen. He nurtured her career during his years at Decca, and is full of novel ideas of what roles his favourite singers should (or should not) undertake. Miss Horne had fears that the part lay too low and too heavily for her own exquisite coloratura-mezzo instrument, and for most of Act I her fears seemed to be justified. But the remainder of the opera justified the risk. Although she is still not one's ideal pagan temptress, Miss Horne had numerous occasions to display her gorgeous middle and high voice.



and her meticulous musicianship.

Régine Crespin's *La Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein* is hardly "new" (after 163 performances) in this production alone, it seems hers as much as Offenbach's. This faultless French production (originally staged for Toulouse) was a model of how to do Offenbach - with taste, grace and panache. Mme Crespin, playing a sort of pantomime version of her Marcelline, is the only "superstar" soprano I have seen who has totally mastered the style and wit of good opera - a minefield into which others have ventured to such joyless effect. She, and everyone, and everything else involved, made

Ricciarelli's Violetta: sure and sweet

of this an exquisite Gallic confection.

A splendid midseason surprise was the revival of Ponchielli's *La Gioconda*, a production so aggressively opulent and busy it became a US television hit (with Luciano Pavarotti) in 1979. Montserrat Caballé sang with phenomenal quality and intelligence. The great Spanish diva has come to seem primarily the stalwart guardian of a priceless, fragile jewel of a voice: one listens, spellbound, for each silver syllable or omnipotent blast - and looks to others for acting. Mariana Pajonova of Bulgaria sang Laura as a Torandot-style ice-princess, in a strange, steely-throated warbling tone I admired for its clarity and control.

Conducting and stage direction (Andrew Meltzer and Lofti Mansouri) held a fine cast together well, and the Dance of the Hours was of classical quality - the vastly improved opera ballet, in fact, was one of the most important steps forward in Mr McEwen's second complete San Francisco season.

David Littlejohn

Tristan und Isolde  
Teatro Comunale,  
Bologna

It ended, as it had begun, with Wagner seated at the piano and the Wesendoncks in appreciative attendance - a domestic drama that served as the worldly background to the dreams and ideals in *Tristan und Isolde*. Such is the framework for Yuri Lyubimov's first undertaking since directing his adaptation of *Crime and Punishment* in London three months ago, and his last before he returns to Moscow to face Soviet officialdom over the future of his beloved and threatened Taganka Theatre.

In common with the handful of other opera productions he has mounted in Italy in recent years, Lyubimov's first Wagner staging is original, controversial and extremely well-executed. He handles *Tristan* as both an escape from and an extension of Wagner's day-to-day circumstances at the time of its conception. So he is less concerned with *Tristan* as a mystical ideal of transcendental love or an expression of Schopenhauer's pessimistic philosophy (fused with its embryonic of the unstable romantic fantasy that has to be reconciled with grim reality).

He makes his point before a note has been sung: the three characters occupying the stage during the Prelude represent the triangle of relationships between Wagner and Otto and Mathilde Wesendonck, who put Asyl, a small property next to their own home in Zurich, at the "Wagners" disposal when *Tristan* was beginning to take shape. The mantles of the two legendary lovers - in the form of cloaks brought on stage by two masked figures - are assumed by Wagner and Mathilde, who are gently kept apart by Otto in a slow retreat to a background silhouette. The production thus assumes its quality of real and ideal, as the love-world of *Tristan und Isolde* is developed in the chaste nineteenth-century terms of the Richard-Mathilde relationship - only to be intruded upon directly or as a giant looming shadow by König Marke in the severe, respectable shape of Otto Wesendonck, the generous patron, morally-affronted friend and understanding husband.

Lyubimov never lets us forget this duality. His three central characters are clothed in respectable dark nineteenth-century costumes, in contrast to Kurwenal, Brangäne and Melot, who exist only as naturalistic props in the fantasy world of the inner drama. He makes extensive use of a large central steel frame which breaks up the stark expanse of blackened stage and acts as a gate

through which the two worlds interact. The emotional impact of events is not depicted in the polite and carefully spotlighted influence of the main protagonists, but in a stunning series of lighting collages.

His use of masked figures is less successful. But their mirrored faces in Act III do afford a compelling reflection of *Tristan's* psychological pain, and Lyubimov's *coup de grâce* is to use two of the masks to depict the lovers' idealized remnant at the end of the *Liebestod* - giving the three principal singers time to resume their positions around the Wesendonck piano for the first curtain call.

As theatre, Lyubimov's approach succeeds hugely. The charge that he has abused the text does not stand close inspection, but he does appear guilty of exaggerating the influence of Mathilde and the whole Wesendonck episode as an inspiration for *Tristan*. Some Wagners will be disturbed by the importance accorded to Marke, and will find little or no illumination of the night-day axis in Act II.

The production's only serious weakness lay in the pit, where the playing lacked body and bite, thereby sabotaging the orchestra's role as a principal protagonist. Zoltan Pesko gestaculated his way through the score with more physical energy

than musical understanding, but he did keep well in touch with the stage and could boast the dubious virtue of allowing every word to be heard clearly. The Teatro Comunale, which is technically and acoustically better equipped for Wagner than most Italian provincial theatres, has imported most of the cast from West Germany. Wolfgang Neumann and Dagmar Trabert filled the title roles with tolerable accuracy but little beauty. Matthias Hölle made an outstanding Marke, and Livia Budal's Brangäne, for which her weighty dark voice is strikingly well-suited, also deserves a wide hearing.

Andrew Clark

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## ECO/Cleobury

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Those who avoid imitations and resolutely seek out the real thing among the myriad of Christmas concerts will surely have ended up at Sunday night's Elizabeth Hall concert, which brought the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, to London. They sang not only carols but Mozart's "Coronation" Mass, which they are recording, with a Handel Alleluia thrown in for good measure: an exhausting programme which came in the midst of preparations for the broadcast of their famous Christmas service of lessons and carols.

So it was not, perhaps, to be wondered at if their sound was slightly more pallid than one has come to expect. The threatening ambience of a full Elizabeth Hall scarcely offers the acoustical support of King's Chapel vault. But in the Mozart Mass one could only presume that no one at rehearsal had ventured towards the back of the hall to hear the balance of the choir against the English Chamber Orchestra: until restraining hands were waved in the Credo, the choir was swamped. It is also arguable whether such a clean, tasteful account serves this music best:

## Concerts

ECO/Cleobury

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## Songmakers' Almanac

Wigmore Hall

Vienna. Graham Johnson has shrewdly suggested in his latest programme notes, was Brahms's New York: an adopted land near enough yet far enough away, where words and music had lighter air to breathe and friendship and anonymity weighed in an easy balance. But his ideals and his two "angels of judgment", Clara Schumann and Elisabeth von Herzogenberg, remained in Germany.

The Songmakers on Sunday carried the songs and letters back and forth over the border in "A Viennese Requiem", a song portrait of Brahms in the last period of his composing life. With Anna Murray as the voice of Clara, Felicity Lott as Elisabeth, Richard Jackson as Brahms himself and Graham Johnson narrating and accompanying, songs were as cunningly as ever matched to words by specific reference and gentle allusion.

"Theresa", for example, sung by Felicity Lott, provided an entertaining little conversation piece as we savoured the critical correspondence, complete with musical examples, between Brahms and

## Elisabet on its different versions.

And then there was Schumann and his "An Anna", an early song, guarded and championed by Clara Brahms and given a chill, rather literary performance by Mr Jackson. Better suited to his sharp-witted artistry was Wolf's "Abschied", taken here as a brilliantly vicious little comment on the Beckmesser-Hanslick-Brahms connexion.

Allusion ranged from the tenderness of Miss Lott's "Wir wandelten", a rapt vocal illustration of Clara as melodic muse, to Mr Jackson's bluff "Kein Haus, keine Heimat", with visions of Brahms slurping sardines from a tin at breakfast. *Carmen* was his favourite opera, and there was Miss Murray, bringing in turn languor and gleaming exuberance to two of the "Zigeunerlieder".

The 1890s approached, and with them the last songs prophetic of the death of the angels and of Brahms himself. Anna Murray, whose contributions alone would have made the evening worthwhile, gave minutely expressive readings of "Immer leiser" and "O Tod, wie bitter bist du". Part two of the Viennese Requiem turns to Alma Mahler, wife of Brahms's "king of insurgents", as the Almanac return on January 18.

Hilary Finch







# FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

## Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

### General insurance groups look to their lifeline

The long drawn out battle for control of Eagle Star between BAT Industries and Allianz Versicherungs was drawn out a little further by the Takeover Panel yesterday.

In a brief statement the panel indicated that there will be a full meeting of its members tomorrow to consider the procedure which should be adopted to deal with rival offers. The Takeover Code was not designed to cover an auction which the sale of Eagle Star has become. It is therefore also a test of the Panel's ingenuity as well as its good sense.

The discussions which took place with Mr John Hignett, director general of the panel, concentrated on two themes. As *The Times* reported yesterday the favoured option is to arrange a one-day auction, after which there would be no further bidding for a specified period. Alternatively the two sides would be free to continue the bidding for a set period, say one week, beyond the present December 30 deadline.

Whatever the final decision the panel's delay in offering guidance to the companies involved and their shareholders is adding to the general confusion in the market where Eagle Star shares closed 12p higher yesterday at 731p. The delay is also damaging for Eagle Star's prized business.

The chances that Allianz will ultimately succeed appear to be improving. It does start with the enormous advantage of holding 29.9 per cent of Eagle Star's equity and the average price per share it would pay in making a winning bid is much more economic than the price BAT would pay for victory.

At another level, that of management, BAT would have nothing like the headache of Allianz. The German company's hope of justifying the acquisition of Eagle Star must rest in anything other than the long term on the efforts of the existing senior managers. Most, if not all, of them are now firmly identified with Eagle Star's stand against Allianz and it is not easy to see them harnessing themselves to the German wagon.

Of wider significance than Eagle Star's fate is the ripples it will cause in the British insurance pond, especially if Allianz carries the day.

### Pegi's Sou in demand

Mr Chooi Mun Sou arrived in London this morning and will play a significant part in the future of Britain's beleaguered tyre company, Dunlop. Mr Sou is the legal adviser and director designate for the Malaysian Pegi group, holders of 27 per cent of the Dunlop equity. He is here to attend a Dunlop board meeting on Thursday and will be hotly pursued by Sarasin International Securities whose proposed £40m cash rescue bid for Dunlop is dependent on Pegi's support.

Dunlop had been expecting Pegi to hand over £55m in cash for the remaining 51 per cent of Dunlop. Malaysian Industries, but that deal fell through last Friday. Pegi still owes Dunlop a further £43m for the Malaysian plantation interests. Although this deal was renegotiated in July a serious question mark now hangs over it.

Both sums would have had a favourable impact on Dunlop's debt mountain of £400m. That, and Dunlop's poor trading record under the outgoing chairman, Sir Campbell Fraser, prompted the £82m agreement with Sumitomo of Japan. Dunlop not only sold its European tyre operations, it also sold its 40 per cent stake in Sumitomo.

Pegi's senior executives so far have responded coldly to Sarasin's proposals but the Malaysians may not be as strong a position as they make out. The Malaysian Foreign Investment Committee is unhappy about such large sums leaving a country which is pursuing a local majority ownership policy for foreign companies operating there.

Even with Sir Maurice Hodgson in Sir Campbell's seat there is some argument whether a man of his stature and experience can achieve much unless he cuts away large pieces of the remaining business with the intention of merging or selling off a profitable residue. If that proved to be so, Pegi's interests might be worth far less than it thought.

## Scott Lithgow to challenge £86m oil rig cancellation

British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard is to challenge yesterday's long-awaited cancellation of an £86m oil rig for a consortium headed by Britoil.

The rig, owned by Lloyds Leasing but contracted to Ben Odeco and Britoil, was due for completion in April. But it is only 30 per cent complete and already more than 500 days behind schedule.

The Britoil statement said four offers to renegotiate the contract had been refused and the obvious implication is that Britoil is blaming British Shipbuilders for forcing the cancellation.

In a terse reply to the announcement a Scott Lithgow spokesman said: "We do not regard it as validly given under the contract. We intend to challenge it and are examining the contractual position with our legal advisers."

He refused to discuss the basis for the challenge. But there will be no immediate lay-off among the yard's 4,500 workforce.

Mr Malcolm Ford, Britoil's joint managing director said: "We have done our best to cooperate with British Shipbuilders to help them overcome the problems. But given past delays and future uncertainties no client could expect to continue."

"We were prepared to contemplate a shipyard of up to 300 days beyond the contracted delivery date. But given past assessment is that it would take much longer."

The cancellation has placed Scott Lithgow's future in the political arena.

Dr Norman Goodman, the Greenock and Port Glasgow Labour MP, is seeking an adjournment of the House to debate the matter. Mr Donald Dewar, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, said the Government should use its 48 per cent stake in Britoil to keep the order with the yard.

He was among Labour MPs who yesterday sought, but were refused, an emergency debate on the matter.

He demanded that a "responsible minister" - either Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, or Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, reassure the House that ministers are acting and not merely standing by as no doubt concerned but ineffective spectators.

Shipstewards from the yard meet Mr Younger today, but it is believed he will refuse to intercede.

If no lifeline is forthcoming up to 1,800 men will be laid-off next month and the remaining jobs will be in jeopardy. However, this in conflict with the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' policy which rules out any compulsory redundancies.

The yard has no further orders in its book and it is estimated that closure would raise the unemployment rate in the Inverclyde area of Strathclyde to between 36 and 40 per cent.

A six-week breathing space has been offered for reconsideration. Britoil says it will then turn, probably to the Far East for a replacement.

### Bankers cut back on credit

Basil (Reuters) - Banks have further reduced their credit lines to most foreign borrowers in the first half of 1983, reflecting the international debt crisis and stagnation of world trade, the Bank for International Settlements said yesterday.

The average length of loans also stretched out further, mainly because the banks refused to renew some short-term credits falling due and because they had to reschedule the debts of countries unable to repay.

The twice-yearly BIS report on international debts showed that the amount of credit which the banks had granted to non-Communist industrial nations had plunged to the rest of the world but had not yet paid out full by \$2.8 billion during the first six months of the year.

Total new lending to these countries at \$10 billion was only one-third as much as in the first half of 1982, a trend already apparent from earlier BIS quarterly debt reviews.

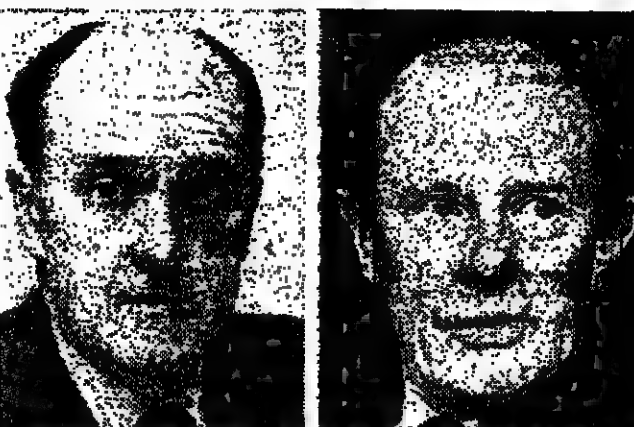
Eastern Europe's net indebtedness to the banks fell by a huge \$11.9 billion, or a quarter, between the end of 1981 and mid-1983. But the BIS said the rate at which banks were cutting back their exposure to these countries was slowing.

Worst off was Poland, where a significant volume of maturing short-term loans was not extended during the first half of 1983. Its unused credit lines fell to 4.3 per cent of its outstanding debt, the worst ratio of all problem countries listed by the BIS.

Most new borrowing by Brazil, the Third World's largest debtor, was for periods longer than two years, reflecting the rescheduling of its debt.

Mexico, the first big country hit by the debt crisis in 1982, was able to borrow about \$1.3 billion on a short-term basis. Further signs of its recovery were increases in its unused credit lines and its deposits with the banks.

Venezuela and Chile, however, received fewer short-term loans and their undischarged credit also declined. Venezuela's unused credit was down to 4.8 per cent of its debt, the lowest ratio in Latin America.



Successor story: Ronald Utiger (left) and Sir Brian Keiller

### Utiger takes over at TI

By Andrew Cornall

Mr Ronald Utiger, deputy chairman and managing director of TI Group, will succeed Sir Brian Keiller as chairman of the company next May. The appointment will take effect at the group's annual meeting.

Mr Michael Boughton, deputy group managing director, will become deputy chairman and group managing director (operations).

Yesterday's decision on the chairmanship of TI follows months of speculation over a successor to Sir Brian, who has been with the engineering and motor components group for 28 years.

Mr Utiger was favourite for the job when TI indicated that it was looking for a new chairman in autumn last year. However, the selection committee set up to find the successor listed headhunters to seek possible candidates from outside. The main argument against Mr Utiger was age - he is 57.

But by tradition the top job at TI goes to the most experienced and able member of the existing staff.

Over the past three years Sir Brian has masterminded a big rationalization of the group which has seen the workforce cut by half to 32,000 and a change in the mix of its businesses away from the heavy end of the engineering industry towards consumer products.

### No dividend after record loss at JFB

By Jonathan Davis  
Financial Correspondent

Johnson and Firth Brown, the Sheffield special steel and engineering group, reported a record loss of £10.9m yesterday and said it was passing all its dividend payments for the year.

But Mr Roy Shepherd, the group's new chief executive, said that while it faced a long haul, the company appeared to have turned the corner and was likely to have a much better year this year.

"Anything as sick as JFB is not going to get better overnight, but I am absolutely confident that over a three to five year period we can return it to a respectable level of profits and start to pay shareholders dividends once again."

The pretax loss in the year to the end of September was more than double the previous year's £4.8m. Of this, £8.9m was attributable to JFB's 50 per cent share in the loss of Sheffield Forgemasters joint venture with British Steel.

As the joint venture is an associate company, the losses were not a cash drain on JFB, but did result in a £12m transfer from reserves, increasing the company's gearing from 57 to 64 per cent.

Last year's bitter 24-week strike at Greening, JFB's Warrington metal engineering subsidiary, cost £1.6m, and although Greening's order book is now back to 75 per cent of its pre-strike level, it will lose money again this year.

Mr Shepherd said that even a small upturn in the economy would have a considerable impact on the group's profit and loss account. He said that the banks had been very patient during the company's crisis, and it had succeeded in reducing its borrowings marginally.

At the operating level, before interest payments, JFB recorded a small profit of £1.6m, against £800,000 the previous year, with the loss's share coming from its special steels division.

The setting up of the Forgemasters joint venture in 1982 resulted in the main group's turnover dropping from £161m to £102m.

### Airship plans cash call

By Michael Clark

Airship Industries is planning to ask shareholders to dig deeper into their pockets to support a big rights issue - the second in less than two months.

The group, which hopes to introduce mass production airships in this country for the first time since the 1930s, has joined forces with Mr Alan Bond, the businessman behind Australia's America's Cup victory, for the purpose of Mr Bonds company, Bond Corp Holdings (Australia), intends to underwrite the issue, details of which will be announced this week.

Shares of Airship Industries were suspended at 93p yesterday amid growing speculation that the group was running short of cash. In February it announced a one-for-two rights issue at 140p to raise £5.6m this was quickly followed by a listing on the Unlisted Securities Market valuing the entire group at £17.5m.

Since then it has started a manufacturing subsidiary in Canada and received several firm orders, but losses have continued to grow. This led to speculation that another rights issue was on the way.

Airship's biggest shareholder is European Ferries with 15 per cent, followed by several institutions, including Royal Bank of Canada with 10 per cent, Commercial Union with 6.05 per cent, and Citicorp Capital Investors with 5.69 per cent.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

### \$300m Qatar claim for arbitration

Arbitration proceedings begin in Paris early next year over a \$300m claim for damages against Shell and Whesoo, the process plant contracting group, by the Qatar Petroleum Producing Authority.

The claim follows a fire at the Umm Said natural gas liquids plant in Qatar in 1977. Shell was project manager and Whesoo a sub-contractor.

Whesoo, which reported increased pretax profits of £6.8m, against £6.5m, for the year to September 24, said there is nothing the company can do to provide against the outcome of the case. Even provision against 10 per cent of the claim would amount to the group's net worth.

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### Sterling pulls back half a cent of losses

By Wayne Lintott

The pound managed to recoup half a cent to close at 1.4183 against the dollar in quiet trading yesterday, having been a further half cent higher earlier in the day.

The Deutschmark and Swiss franc also regained part of last week's losses as European foreign exchange markets kept trading to a minimum.

But the dollar once more began surging ahead when New York entered business in the late afternoon.

The Bank of England was not thought to have intervened on any significant scale, but in Frankfurt the West German central bank, the Bundesbank, sold a further \$52.75m in an effort to bolster its flagging currency.

The dollar once again finished at its best level against the mark at 2.7730.

The French franc fared slightly better, gaining a couple of centimes to 8.4515 to the dollar. The yen, still weakened by the Liberal Democrats' failure to gain a majority in the Japanese election battle, continued lower to 236.25.

Once again the prospect of higher US interest rates bolstered the dollar. Dealers said last Friday's US\$5.5 billion rise in the weekly money supply had been discounted, but today's meeting of the policymaking Federal Open Market Committee would be more significant.

It will indicate whether pressure is to be applied to bring rates down and cut the deficit.

### Stocks continue upward move

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks continued to edge upward with the big capitalization issues in the forefront in early trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up more than 5 points and the transportation index up more than 2.

Advancing issues lead declines by a count 690-to-680 margin. Trading was moderately active.

General Electric was up 1/4 at 55 1/2; General Motors up 1/4 at 74 1/2; Ford up 1/4 to 41 1/2; Exxon down 1/4 at 37 1/2; Eastman Kodak up 1/4 to 74 1/2; International Business Machines up 1/4 at 121 1/2 and Teletype up 1/4 to 163 1/2.

South Pacific was 39 unchanged; Honeywell 136 1/2, up 1 1/2; Barringer 48 1/2, down 1/2; Motorola 133 1/2, up 1/4; Abbott Laboratories 45 1/2, up 1.

Individual countries in Asia (excluding Japan), where unused credit lines rose by \$1.9 billion showed the relatively good credit standing of most nations in the region.

Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Taiwan, China, Mexico and Algeria were the only important borrowers outside the group of leading non-Communist nations to record marked increases in their undischarged credit facilities.

Top performer was China, whose unused loan pledges were nearly two-and-a-half times as large as the amount of money it had actually borrowed. Its deposits with foreign banks at mid-year also exceeded its debts by nearly \$10 billion.

The banks' undischarged credit commitments to the whole of the rest of the world represented only 16.6 per cent of total outstanding debt at mid-1983. This was nearly 12 percentage points lower than five years ago.

### £315m gas project will benefit steel industry

## Go-ahead for North Sea pipeline

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Department of Energy has given approval for the development of an 180 mile-long gas pipeline from the North Sea Fulmar field operated by Shell and Esso.

The £315m pipeline would provide work for British Steel pipe manufacturing plant at Hartlepool. It is the eleventh big North Sea project to be approved this year.

The Department of Energy is also likely to give approval to development of the Beatrice "C" project before the end of next week, confirming previous government predictions that British industry will benefit by as much as £1 billion from a resurgence of activity in North Sea.

The approval for the Shell-Esso development of the Fulmar field confirms previous announcements by the two companies - they operate in the North Sea under a partnership agreement - that they will spend as much as £800m on the development of gas and oil fields by the end of the decade.

The Fulmar pipeline will involve construction of plant at the St Fergus base south of Aberdeen. It will also be used as the "spine" pipeline for the development of other North Sea gas fields which are now being considered by the oil companies.

The Clyde Field operated by Britoil will be connectable to the pipeline.

The pipeline has become viable because of taxation changes in the last Budget and by a hardening of natural gas prices paid to the oil companies.

The Minister of State for Energy, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, said yesterday: "I am keen to see companies themselves develop plans and invest in gas gathering. I hope that the British steel industry will take advantage of this project to build up its share in onshore construction work."

Shell and Esso had been told in advance that the Fulmar project would be given Government approval. Because of this British Steel has been able to avoid further lay-offs at its Hartlepool pipeworks and bring back men who had been laid-off.

Approval of the Fulmar development is a confirmation that the oil industry is being left to devise methods of bringing gas from the central sector of the North Sea.

An earlier proposal for a joint industry-Government gas gathering pipeline was abandoned after the Government insisted that the scheme should be financed outside the Government borrowing requirement without Treasury guarantees for loans already approved by a consortium of banks led by the Bank of Scotland.



Alick Buchanan-Smith

Smith, said yesterday: "I am keen to see companies themselves develop plans and invest in gas gathering. I hope that the British steel industry will take advantage of this project to build up its share in onshore construction work."

### Index hits record high

Selective support for blue chips held the various bid situations kept the equity market on the boil yesterday. The FT Index closed at a new high 2.8 up at 762.1. The previous record of 760.2 was set last week.

A rise of 9p in shares of Bowater to a new high of 254p was mainly responsible for the FT maintaining its momentum in these quiet conditions. Dealers are speculating that a bid from across the Atlantic may soon be on the way. Others to draw support included Grand Metropolitan 7p to 348p, while Distillers on 121p, Hawker Siddeley on 360p, TI Group on 464p and Vickers on 122p all added 2p apiece.

#### STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 762.1 up 2.8  
FT 100 Index 82.64 up 0.30  
FT All Shares 653.5 up 1.04  
FT 100 Index 19.280  
Datastream USM Leaders Index 95.08 up 0.15  
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1247.97 up 5.80  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,484.17 down 81.47  
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 857.25 down 3.52  
Amsterdam: 155.4 unchanged  
Sydney: AG Index 755.7  
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1018.3 up 10.2  
Brussels: General Index 134.48 up 0.61  
Zurich: SKA General 307.30 up 0.40

#### CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE  
Sterling \$1.4185 up 55pts  
Index 82.1 up 0.2  
DM 3.8350 up 0.0050  
FF 11.9950 up 0.01  
Yen 335.25 up 1.75  
Dollar Index 131.2 up 0.1  
DM 2.7730 down 0.0047  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.4170  
Dollar DM 2.7720  
INTERCONTINENTAL  
ECU 0.57482  
SDR 0.732184

#### INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates 9%  
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2%  
Discount market loan week fixed 8 1/2%  
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2%  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 10 1/4-10 1/2%  
3 month DM 8 1/4-8 1/2%  
3 month FF 14-13 1/4  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate 11.00  
Fed funds 9 1/4%  
Treasury long bond 100 1/4-100 1/2%

#### GOLD

London fixed (net of VAT) \$378.65 pm \$375 close \$374.75-\$375.50 (\$284-\$284.50)  
New York (latest) \$375.50 Kruggerand (per coin): \$385-\$387.50 (\$272-\$273.00)  
Sovereigns (new): \$98-\$99 (\$282-\$282.75)  
\*Excludes VAT

## Norcros p.l.c. pre-tax profit up 11%

Ken Roberts, Chairman, reports:

- Confidence in achieving the forecast pre-tax profit for the current year.
- Interim dividend up 10.6% to 2.3p.

Financial summary for the half year to 30th September 1983

	1983-4 Half year	1982-3 Half year	1982-3 Full year
External sales	£164.7m	£166.4m	£355.5m
Profit before taxation	£13.9m	£12.5m	£28.3m
Earnings per ordinary share	7.76p	6.51p	15.97p
Sales per employee	£24,666	£21,642	£24,049

Copies of the interim report and corporate brochure are available from:  
The Company Secretary, Norcros p.l.c., Spencers Wood, Reading RG7 7NT.





# Britannic Assurance in trust takeover

By Wayne Lintott

Britannic Assurance surprised the stock market yesterday when it announced an agreed all-share offer for the Midland Trust at a level equivalent of full net asset value, a hefty premium over the value ruling in the market.

The complicated bid basically values Midland at £8.9m against a pre-announcement value of £5.6m. Britannic already owns 33.3 per cent of Midland through its own holdings - it has been a shareholder since 1929 - and those of its pension funds. Coupled to irrevocable acceptances already received, Britannic has acceptances of 50.9 per cent.

Britannic is to offer enough of its own shares, down 8p at 450p, for each Midland, up 63p at 198p, to gain control when the bid goes unconditional. That means that Midland

shareholders will not know exactly how many Britannic shares they are to receive but on a rule-of-thumb calculation the offer works out at about one-for-two.

The precise terminology is Britannic Ordinary stock units - taken at 458p - equivalent to the value of 109.1 per cent of the net asset value per Midland Ordinary. The net asset value will be determined when the bid is declared unconditional to a precise formula.

A cash alternative is being provided through the adviser, S. G. Warburg, which will arrange to place any Britannic shares Midland shareholders accept for cash.

Midland is an authorized investment trust consisting entirely of shares quoted on the London stock exchange.

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

**Hampton Gold Mining Areas:** Six months to June 30, 1983. Interim division 1p (same). Figures in £000s. Turnover 6,189 (4,675). Trading profit 322 (248). Investment income and interest received 654 (504). Royalties 528 (227). Exploration costs 6 (240). Profit on investments sale nil (3). Pre-tax profit 1,523 (784). Shares 200 down 3.

**A Monk & Co:** Half year to August 31, 1983. Interim dividend 2p (1.5p) to reduce disparity. Company anticipates total for the current year of not less than the 6.0p per share paid last year. Figures in £000s. Turnover 52,000 (45,000). Pre-tax profit 1,137 (1,375). Tax 398 (344). Minorities nil (72). Shares 122 down 1.

**Farral Bridge:** Six months to June 6, 1983. Figures in £000s. Turnover 5,763 (3,460). Trading profit 378 (30 loss). Interest payable 12 (27). Pre-tax profit 366 (57 loss). Tax 97 (credit 73).

Whessoe remains an interesting investment opportunity after producing a £300,000 increase in pretax profits to £5.8m in the year to September 24.

This was on turnover of £111.3m against £98.1m last time. The orderbook at the process plant engineering group, at £300m is identical to last year's with the £75m of orders coming in compensating for the contracts completed during the year.

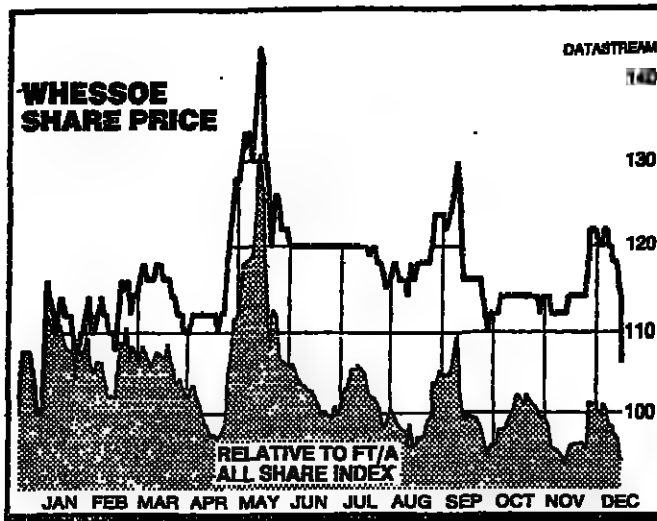
Good and bad news for shareholders is the near completion of the £130m orders for the heavy engineering work at the Heysham and Torness advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) nuclear power stations.

The contracts will be completed by next spring apart from some routine maintenance and service work. But because Whessoe prefers to defer taking profits from such work until it is completed the benefits will not show through until 1984 and 1985.

Whessoe's problem is filling the gap left by the completion of these orders. Mr William Smart, the chairman reports that the group is better placed than a year ago to pick up orders having completed a £5m restructuring at its Darlington plant which has seen numbers reduced from 800 to 300 and the installation of computer numerically controlled machinery increasing efficiency sixfold.

But the key to the group's success hinges upon its ability to translate the increase in order

# Whessoe seeks to bridge AGR gap



inquiries into contracts. On the offshore side this is already beginning to show with work on a £15m contract to provide British Gas with a new module nearly completed and strong inquiries from other energy companies.

Elsewhere, the light engineering division has managed to maintain pretax profits at the £850,000 level, despite a grim marketplace, while the Australian and Canadian divisions also traded in the black.

The blackspot turned out to be the high pressure pipework division at Alton where a £1.5m provision was necessary to cover the increasing costs of contracts which are taken on a five-year timespan.

Another shadow over the group is the threatened \$300m writ for damages from Qatar

Timber, which disclosed a return to profits.

Yesterday it was the turn of the timber importer May & Hassell, where the recovery gathered pace in the half-year to September 30, leading to a more than tenfold rise in pretax profits from £126,000 to £1.19m.

May & Hassell took action during its last financial year to rationalize the timber importing side of its business, including closing its loss-making Cardiff operation.

Mr Peter Atley, chairman, is therefore predicting that the half-year improvement will be more than maintained in the full-year results and the group's confidence is reflected in a 23 per cent rise in the interim dividend from 1.3p to 1.6p net.

During the first half, May & Hassell managed a small reduction in interest charges from £1.9m to £1m and the group has also benefited from rising timber prices and improved profit margins. Turnover in the six months rose by 20 per cent from £28.7m to £34.5m.

The group has now bought the remaining 50 per cent of Hallam Group, although in the first half it turned in another disappointing performance. May & Hassell's half-share of its losses amounted to £67,000 compared with £65,000 in the whole of 1982-1983.

However, the market was prepared to overlook this and the shares rose 15p to 113p in response to the results.

**Norcross**

No sooner has the construction-to-packaging group Norcross shrugged off one negative label, the problem Hygena Kitchens, than its failure to win control of the builders' merchants UBM, has lumbered it with another.

The interim figures clearly illustrate why UBM is such an important component in expansion. The figures are slightly deceptive. Pretax profit is up from £12.5m to £13.9m on turnover marginally lower at £164.7m. The interim dividend is up from 2.08p to 2.3p.

Hygena, despite the losses accounted for around 59m of turnover so the expansion of the other areas has been significant. And the best performer was construction, where the upsurge of housebuilding is proving a worthwhile base on which Norcross can expand overseas.

At the final stage in the summer, international profits fell 25 per cent and now have more than halved to £2.3m. Ceramics were the other big profit earner but once again the business of the international division slid badly down.

Engineering held its profit level while print and packaging managed a marginal increase. Norcross obviously has an ability to make money in Britain but is doing a lot less well abroad. The shares at 143p were down 5p and yielding a healthy 7 per cent, but will continue to be overshadowed by the prospect of a renewed bid for UBM next year.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any shares.



## Arbuthnot Yen Bond Fund Limited

(A Company Incorporated with limited liability in Jersey on 24th February, 1983 under the provisions of The Companies (Jersey) Laws 1981 to 1988)

### Share Capital

Issued and fully paid as at 30th November, 1983	Yen
20,000	20,000
7,980,000	1,171,562
	3,492,957
	4,684,519

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for admission to the Official List of all the Participating Redeemable Preference Shares in issue and available to be issued. Particulars of the Company are available in the External Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and Public Holidays excepted) up to and including 6th January, 1984 from:-

Arbuthnot Securities Limited,  
131 Finsbury Pavement,  
Moorgate, London EC2A 1AY.

Cazenove & Co.,  
12 Tokenhouse Yard,  
London EC2R 7AN.

## COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES			
Coffee, Robusta, 100 lbs	252.00-256.00	Mar	252.00-256.00
Coffee, Arabica, 100 lbs	212.00-216.00	Mar	212.00-216.00
Cocoa, 100 lbs	1,100.00-1,120.00	Mar	1,100.00-1,120.00
Wheat, 100 lbs	100.00-102.00	Mar	100.00-102.00
Barley, 100 lbs	80.00-82.00	Mar	80.00-82.00
Oats, 100 lbs	60.00-62.00	Mar	60.00-62.00
Maize, 100 lbs	50.00-52.00	Mar	50.00-52.00
Soyabean, 100 lbs	40.00-42.00	Mar	40.00-42.00
Canola, 100 lbs	30.00-32.00	Mar	30.00-32.00
Almonds, 100 lbs	20.00-22.00	Mar	20.00-22.00
Walnuts, 100 lbs	10.00-12.00	Mar	10.00-12.00
Peanut, 100 lbs	15.00-17.00	Mar	15.00-17.00
Coconut, 100 lbs	12.00-14.00	Mar	12.00-14.00
Vanilla, 100 lbs	18.00-20.00	Mar	18.00-20.00
Pepper, 100 lbs	25.00-27.00	Mar	25.00-27.00
Spices, 100 lbs	30.00-32.00	Mar	30.00-32.00
Tea, 100 lbs	40.00-42.00	Mar	40.00-42.00
Herbal, 100 lbs	50.00-52.00	Mar	50.00-52.00
Flowers, 100 lbs	60.00-62.00	Mar	60.00-62.00
Seeds, 100 lbs	70.00-72.00	Mar	70.00-72.00
Grains, 100 lbs	80.00-82.00	Mar	80.00-82.00
Legumes, 100 lbs	90.00-92.00	Mar	90.00-92.00
Oilseeds, 100 lbs	100.00-102.00	Mar	100.00-102.00
Animal, 100 lbs	110.00-112.00	Mar	110.00-112.00
Minerals, 100 lbs	120.00-122.00	Mar	120.00-122.00
Metals, 100 lbs	130.00-132.00	Mar	130.00-132.00
Chemicals, 100 lbs	140.00-142.00	Mar	140.00-142.00
Plastics, 100 lbs	150.00-152.00	Mar	150.00-152.00
Textiles, 100 lbs	160.00-162.00	Mar	160.00-162.00
Leather, 100 lbs	170.00-172.00	Mar	170.00-172.00
Rubber, 100 lbs	180.00-182.00	Mar	180.00-182.00
Gold, 100 lbs	190.00-192.00	Mar	190.00-192.00
Silver, 100 lbs	200.00-202.00	Mar	200.00-202.00
Palladium, 100 lbs	210.00-212.00	Mar	210.00-212.00
Platinum, 100 lbs	220.00-222.00	Mar	220.00-222.00
Neon, 100 lbs	230.00-232.00	Mar	230.00-232.00
Argon, 100 lbs	240.00-242.00	Mar	240.00-242.00
Krypton, 100 lbs	250.00-252.00	Mar	250.00-252.00
Xenon, 100 lbs	260.00-262.00	Mar	260.00-262.00
Radium, 100 lbs	270.00-272.00	Mar	270.00-272.00
Uranium, 100 lbs	280.00-282.00	Mar	280.00-282.00
Thorium, 100 lbs	290.00-292.00	Mar	290.00-292.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	300.00-302.00	Mar	300.00-302.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	310.00-312.00	Mar	310.00-312.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	320.00-322.00	Mar	320.00-322.00
Francium, 100 lbs	330.00-332.00	Mar	330.00-332.00
Radium, 100 lbs	340.00-342.00	Mar	340.00-342.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	350.00-352.00	Mar	350.00-352.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	360.00-362.00	Mar	360.00-362.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	370.00-372.00	Mar	370.00-372.00
Francium, 100 lbs	380.00-382.00	Mar	380.00-382.00
Radium, 100 lbs	390.00-392.00	Mar	390.00-392.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	400.00-402.00	Mar	400.00-402.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	410.00-412.00	Mar	410.00-412.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	420.00-422.00	Mar	420.00-422.00
Francium, 100 lbs	430.00-432.00	Mar	430.00-432.00
Radium, 100 lbs	440.00-442.00	Mar	440.00-442.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	450.00-452.00	Mar	450.00-452.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	460.00-462.00	Mar	460.00-462.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	470.00-472.00	Mar	470.00-472.00
Francium, 100 lbs	480.00-482.00	Mar	480.00-482.00
Radium, 100 lbs	490.00-492.00	Mar	490.00-492.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	500.00-502.00	Mar	500.00-502.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	510.00-512.00	Mar	510.00-512.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	520.00-522.00	Mar	520.00-522.00
Francium, 100 lbs	530.00-532.00	Mar	530.00-532.00
Radium, 100 lbs	540.00-542.00	Mar	540.00-542.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	550.00-552.00	Mar	550.00-552.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	560.00-562.00	Mar	560.00-562.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	570.00-572.00	Mar	570.00-572.00
Francium, 100 lbs	580.00-582.00	Mar	580.00-582.00
Radium, 100 lbs	590.00-592.00	Mar	590.00-592.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	600.00-602.00	Mar	600.00-602.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	610.00-612.00	Mar	610.00-612.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	620.00-622.00	Mar	620.00-622.00
Francium, 100 lbs	630.00-632.00	Mar	630.00-632.00
Radium, 100 lbs	640.00-642.00	Mar	640.00-642.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	650.00-652.00	Mar	650.00-652.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	660.00-662.00	Mar	660.00-662.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	670.00-672.00	Mar	670.00-672.00
Francium, 100 lbs	680.00-682.00	Mar	680.00-682.00
Radium, 100 lbs	690.00-692.00	Mar	690.00-692.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	700.00-702.00	Mar	700.00-702.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	710.00-712.00	Mar	710.00-712.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	720.00-722.00	Mar	720.00-722.00
Francium, 100 lbs	730.00-732.00	Mar	730.00-732.00
Radium, 100 lbs	740.00-742.00	Mar	740.00-742.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	750.00-752.00	Mar	750.00-752.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	760.00-762.00	Mar	760.00-762.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	770.00-772.00	Mar	770.00-772.00
Francium, 100 lbs	780.00-782.00	Mar	780.00-782.00
Radium, 100 lbs	790.00-792.00	Mar	790.00-792.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	800.00-802.00	Mar	800.00-802.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	810.00-812.00	Mar	810.00-812.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	820.00-822.00	Mar	820.00-822.00
Francium, 100 lbs	830.00-832.00	Mar	830.00-832.00
Radium, 100 lbs	840.00-842.00	Mar	840.00-842.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	850.00-852.00	Mar	850.00-852.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	860.00-862.00	Mar	860.00-862.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	870.00-872.00	Mar	870.00-872.00
Francium, 100 lbs	880.00-882.00	Mar	880.00-882.00
Radium, 100 lbs	890.00-892.00	Mar	890.00-892.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	900.00-902.00	Mar	900.00-902.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	910.00-912.00	Mar	910.00-912.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	920.00-922.00	Mar	920.00-922.00
Francium, 100 lbs	930.00-932.00	Mar	930.00-932.00
Radium, 100 lbs	940.00-942.00	Mar	940.00-942.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	950.00-952.00	Mar	950.00-952.00
Polonium, 100 lbs	960.00-962.00	Mar	960.00-962.00
Astatine, 100 lbs	970.00-972.00	Mar	970.00-972.00
Francium, 100 lbs	980.00-982.00	Mar	980.00-982.00
Radium, 100 lbs	990.00-992.00	Mar	990.00-992.00
Actinium, 100 lbs	1000.00-1002.00	Mar	1000.00-1002.00

## Base Lending Rates

Base Lending Rates

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## Effect of clause in charterparty

**Tor Line AB v Alltrans Group of Canada Ltd**  
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook

[Speeches delivered December 15]  
The House of Lords considered the scope of clause 13 of the charterparty in allowing an appeal by the charterers, Tor Line AB from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Dillon and Sir Denis Buckley) (The Times April 8, 1983) who on March 30, 1983 allowed an appeal by the owners, Alltrans Group of Canada Ltd from the judgment on January 20, 1982 of Mr Justice Bingham (The Times January 25, 1982; [1982] 1 Lloyd's Rep 617) who had held *inter alia* in favour of the charterers, that the charterparty had come to the correct conclusion on the effect of the clause.

Clause 13 of the charterparty provided: "The charterers shall be responsible for delay in delivery of the cargo or for damage to cargo or loss of cargo or damage to cargo on board, if such delay or loss has been caused by want of due diligence on the part of the charterers or their manager or crew in making the vessel seaworthy and fitted for the voyage or any other personal act or omission or default of the charterers or their manager or crew."

"The charterers not to be responsible in any other case nor for damage or delay whatsoever and however caused even if caused by the neglect or default of their servants."

"The charterers not to be liable for loss or damage arising or resulting from strikes, lock-outs or stoppage or restraint of labour or vehicles (including the master, officers or crew) whether partial or general."

"The charterers to be responsible

for loss or damage caused to the vessel or to the cargo by goods being loaded contrary to the terms of the charter or by improper or careless bunkering or loading, stowing or discharging of goods or any other improper or negligent act on their part or that of their servants."

Mr Kenneth Robinson, QC and Mr Stephen Tomlinson for the charterers; Mr Bernard Rix, QC and Mr Michael Tugendhat for the owners.

LORD ROSKILL said that the charterparty was a charterparty by demise of the TFL Prosperity. By a time charter dated April 24, 1979 the charterers had chartered the vessel for six months and ten days on a charterparty in the charterparty form. To the 25 clauses of the charterparty the parties added typed clauses numbered 26 to 60 inclusive.

The vessel was of a type known as "roll on/roll off" and the charterers required her for their "roll on/roll off" liner service between Europe and the Middle East. It was no doubt for that reason that clause 26, the first of the additional typed clauses, specified in great detail the description of certain fixed structural attributes of the vessel together with particulars of her speed and consumption.

Clause 26 specified under the heading "Free Heights" that the main deck was to be 6.10 m. In fact the free height of the main deck at one critical point was only 6.03 m. As a result a Mafi trailer double stacked with 40ft containers could not be loaded on the main deck.

The charterers claimed damages from the owners, mainly for loss of freight, but there was also a small claim for damages for delay. The charterers raised various defences but the only one which was not rejected was based on clause 13.

The clause contained four separate sentences, but while each sentence was analysed in detail, each had also to be related to the other so as to construe clause 13 as a whole. To say that the grammar of those four sentences and indeed the drafting was in many places sadly defective and that on any view there was surplusage at various points in the clause did not solve the problems of construction but merely added seriously to their complication.

While the first three sentences of clause 13 were concerned with stating for what the owners would and would not be liable, the fourth was concerned with those matters for which the charterers were to be liable.

Having regard to the obligations imposed on the charterers by, in particular, clause 4 which required the charterers to provide and pay for many things including bunkers and loading and discharging, it was doubtful whether the fourth sentence of the clause imposed greater liabilities than would in any event fall upon the charterers either under the charter or at common law.

The principles applicable to the construction of the exception clauses in charters were set out in the judgment of Lord Justice Bingham in *Burton v English* ([1983] 12 QBD 218) when he said:

"There is... another rule of construction which one would bring to bear upon this charterparty, and that is, that one must see if this stipulation which we have got to construe is introduced by way of exception to a general rule, or if it is a stipulation which is intended to be a general rule, and if so, we must take care not to give it an extension beyond what is fairly necessary, because those who wish to introduce words in a contract in order to shield themselves ought to do so in clear words."

Applying those principles, without regard to any of the decided cases, it was not possible to construe clause 13 as a whole and in particular the second sentence as protecting the owners against liability for the breach of clause 26, which in the unimpaired and Mr Justice Bingham's view they undoubtedly committed.

However, there was nothing in the decided cases which would lead to a different conclusion from that which was reached solely upon the language of clause 13. It followed that upon its true construction clause 13 did not in any event afford the charterers a defence to the claim by the owners.

If clause 13 were to be construed so as to allow a breach of the warranties as to description in clause 26 to be committed or a failure to deliver the vessel at all to take place without financial redress to the charterers, the charter virtually ceased to be a contract for the letting of the vessel and the performance of services by the charterers, their masters, officers and crew in consideration of the payment of time charter hire, and because no more than a statement of intent by the charterers in return for the charterers were obliged to pay large sums by way of hire, though if the charterers failed to carry out their promises as to description or delivery, were entitled to nothing in return.

It was difficult to believe that that could accord with the true common intention of the parties and that conclusion could not be reached with the true construction of the charter in which the parties were supposed to have expressed that true common intention in writing.

Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser, Lord Keith and Lord Brandon agreed.

Solicitors: Inglewood Brown Benison & Garrett; Clyde & Co.

## Arresting ship as arbitration security

**Re The Andria now renamed Vasso**  
Before Lord Justice Waller, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Robert Goff

[Judgment delivered December 19]  
On an application by a plaintiff who had issued a writ in an action *in rem*, the admiralty court had jurisdiction to arrest a ship even when the plaintiff's purpose was simply to obtain security for an award in arbitration proceedings, but the intentions and conduct of the plaintiff in invoking that jurisdiction were matters to be taken into account by the court when deciding whether or not to exercise the power of arrest.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the owners of cargo lately on board the ship Andria now renamed Vasso, from the decision of Mr Justice Sheen on June 23, 1982, ordering that an undertaking given by the P & I Club of the respondents, the owners of the ship, given in order to procure the release of the ship arrested by the appellants, should be discharged.

Mr Roger Buckley, QC and Miss Hilary Heilbron for the appellants; Mr Julian Flaux for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF, giving judgment of the court, said that the appellants had a

claim against the respondents for damage to goods carried on board the ship Andria. After the commencement of proceedings in the High Court, the parties entered into an *ad hoc* arbitration agreement, after which arbitration proceedings were pursued in the ordinary way.

The respondents subsequently sold the ship, which was renamed Vasso, but since the appellants had issued an admiralty writ *in rem* while the vessel was still in the respondents' ownership, and had subsequently renewed it, the admiralty court's jurisdiction could be invoked in order to arrest the ship, thus providing security for the appellants' claim.

An affidavit in the usual form was filed and a warrant for the arrest of the ship was issued. However, no mention had been made in the affidavit of the parties' agreement to arbitrate.

After negotiation, the appellants agreed to release the ship on an undertaking from the respondents, P & I Club, the United Kingdom Mutual Steam Ship Assurance Association (Bermuda) Ltd.

The respondents then applied by motion for a declaration that the admiralty court had no jurisdiction to arrest the ship, and for an order discharging the undertaking given to the appellants.

Mr Justice Sheen held that since the only purpose in arresting the

ship was to obtain security for any award ultimately made by the arbitrators, and not to hear and determine any claim, the court had not jurisdiction to arrest the ship. He therefore ordered the undertaking to be discharged.

He based that decision on his own decision in *The Maritime Trader* ([1981] 2 Lloyd's Rep 153) in which he followed earlier decisions of Mr Justice Brandon (as he then was) in *The Cap Bon* ([1967] 1 Lloyd's Rep 543) and *The Rena K* ([1979] 1 QB 377).

His Lordship said that while the court had the greatest respect for any opinion expressed by Lord Brandon (as he now was), he was unable to agree with his view that the admiralty court had no jurisdiction to arrest a ship where the purpose of the plaintiff was simply to obtain security for an arbitration award.

Where under sections 1(1) and 3(4) of the Administration of Justice Act 1956 (now sections 20(2) and 21(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981) the court had jurisdiction to hear the type of claim *in rem* endorsed on the writ, then, under Order 75, rule 5 *et seq* of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the court

must have the power to arrest a ship. But the exercise of that power was not mandatory, and it followed that the court's discretion in exercising the power might be affected by the manner in which, or the purpose for which, the plaintiff had proceeded.

On the law as it stood at present, the court's jurisdiction to arrest a ship in an action *in rem* should not be exercised for the purpose of providing security for an award which might be made in arbitration proceedings, because the purpose of the power was to provide security for an action *in rem*.

That might change when, eventually, section 26 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 came into force.

In the present case, by pursuing proceedings both in court and by arbitration, and by failing to disclose the arbitration proceedings in their *ex parte* application for the warrant of arrest, the appellants had abused the process of the court.

It followed that, while the declaration granted by Mr Justice Sheen had been wrong, the Court of Appeal would not, in its discretion, interfere with the judge's order discharging the undertaking from the respondents' P & I Club.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Richards Butler & Co.

## Dominant purpose test for privilege

**In re Highgrade Traders Ltd**  
Before Lord Justice Oliver and Lord Justice Robert Goff

[Judgment delivered December 16]  
The claims officer of an insurance company, which refused to meet a claim for fire damage by the liquidator of an insolvent company on the alleged ground of arson by the company's controllers, was not liable to produce to the court, under section 268(3) of the Companies Act 1948, certain reports concerning the cause of the fire because their "dominant" or "sole" purpose was to obtain legal advice in contemplation of litigation.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by Mr A. J. Alexander, the claims officer, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Mervyn Davies on December 3, 1982, (*The Times*, December 9, 1982) of Mr Alexander's motion for the discharge of an order, made by Mr Registrar Bradburn on April 30, 1982, on the application of Mr Bernard Phillips, the liquidator of Highgrade Traders Ltd, that Mr Alexander should be examined on oath and be required to produce any documents, records or reports, in the custody, power or control of the Phoenix Assurance Co Ltd, which related to Highgrade Traders Ltd.

Mr Michael Turner, QC and Mr Patrick Twigg for the appellant, Mr Michael Crystal and Mr Richard Adkins for the liquidator.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER said that the dispute had arisen in consequence of a fire which had occurred in highly suspicious circumstances at the premises of Highgrade Traders Ltd on June 30, 1980. Sidney Balcombe & Co, fire assessors, had submitted a claim against the insurers on behalf of the company on July 31, 1980.

The insurers' solicitors had considered that litigation might ensue and had asked the insurers to obtain a fully detailed report. Thereafter, three reports had been compiled for the insurers by, respectively, (1) Pycroft & Arnold, loss adjusters, on September 2, 1980; (2) Hogg, Bulmore & Co, chartered accountants, on February 13, 1981; and (3) Dr J H Burgoyne & Partners, specialist fire investigators, on February 26, 1981.

On April 27, 1981, the insurers had written to the company stating that as they were satisfied that the fire had been deliberately and fraudulently started, they were not prepared to meet the claim.

In July 1981, it was resolved that the company be wound up voluntarily and Mr Phillips was appointed liquidator. In pursuance of his duty to the creditors, he applied for a section 268 order against the appellant, the responsible claims officer of the insurers, to examine him and to compel him to produce the three reports concerned. The appellant refused, claiming that the reports were privileged.

On behalf of the liquidator, Mr

Crystal conceded that if the appellant could show that the reports were privileged, a section 268 order could not extend to them.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies had concluded, *inter alia*, that the reports had been commissioned for a dual purpose, and that the evidence showed that the dominant purpose had been to find out the cause of the fire and not for litigation. But he appeared to have misinterpreted the effect of the relevant authorities on the facts.

In *Grant v Downs* ([1976] 135 CLR 674, 677) Chief Justice Barwick had held that a document would be privileged if it had been brought into existence for the "dominant" purpose of obtaining legal advice or aid in litigation, such litigation being a reasonable prospect at that time. In *Waugh v British Railways Board* ([1980] AC 91, 944) Lord Edmund-Davies, having adopted that test, continued: "Dominant purpose, then... should now be declared by this House to be the touchstone. It is less stringent than 'sole' purpose..."

Thus, the fact that the person who produced or commissioned the document had in mind other uses would not preclude privilege provided it had had the requisite "dominant" purpose. That was not inconsistent with an earlier decision of the House of Lords in *Alfred Crompton Amusement Machines Ltd v Customs & Excise Commissioners* ([1974] AC 403, 432) where Lord Cross of

Chelsea had described the two purposes for which the document there concerned had been produced as forming a "single wider purpose".

Applying those tests to the present case, the judge had concluded that the main purpose of the reports had been to ascertain the cause of the fire, while obtaining legal advice in the event of litigation had only been a secondary purpose. His Lordship was unable to agree that such a duality of purpose had existed. The only reason for discovering the cause of the fire was to ascertain whether there had been fraud. It was clear that if the claim was persisted in, litigation would follow.

Knowing the cause of the fire was of no use on its own: the insurers were not pursuing an academic interest in the possibilities of spontaneous combustion. It was incontrovertible that the insurers had formed a view early on in the dispute that litigation was probable.

Since the documents were, in his Lordship's opinion, therefore privileged, and since it was unlikely that the appellant would be able on examination to provide any information about the fire which did not spring from those reports, his Lordship would exercise his discretion to quash the whole of the section 268 order.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF agreed. Solicitors: Lawrence Messer & Co; Heald & Lawson.

## Means inquiry before binding over

**Regina v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Boulding**

It was a breach of the rules of natural justice for a court to bind an accused person over in anything greater than a trivial sum without looking at his means and allowing him to make representations as to the amount of the recognizance.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court with Mr Justice Taylor on December 12, so held, granting an application by Mr Stephen Boulding for judicial review by way of certiorari to quash an order of the Central Criminal Court on January 19, on appeal from the Mansion House Justices, binding him over to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for two years in the sum of £500.

HIS LORDSHIP said although, following the decision in *R v Woking Justices, Ex parte Gossage* ([1973] QB 448), there was no general obligation on a court to allow a defendant, even if acquitted, an opportunity to make representations before binding him over, it was impossible to see how it could arrive at a proper and suitable figure for the recognizance in the absence of any information as to the defendant's means.

Accordingly, unless the amount of the recognizance was trivial, it was a denial of natural justice not to inquire into the defendant's means before imposing the recognizance as the imposition of an unduly large recognizance could work very great injustice to the defendant.

## Delay by prosecution

**Regina v Guildhall Justices, Ex parte Carson-Selman**

**Regina v Guildhall Justices, Ex parte Knight**

**Regina v Guildhall Justices, Ex parte Pinn**

In an extreme case where the prosecution's delay in serving committal papers and bringing on a committal hearing had been truly excessive, examining justices did have power on a further application for an adjournment and remand to

require the prosecution to disclose whether they had a case to present which favoured of being a *replevi* case against the defendant, on pain of having the charges dismissed.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Mann) so stated on December 14, dismissing three applications for judicial review of a decision of the justices to grant a further adjournment of committal proceedings against the applicants.

## No bottle trade mark

**In re Coca-Cola Company's Application**

A Coca-Cola bottle was not a trade mark, Mr Justice Falconer held in the Chancery Division on December 14, on applications by the Coca-Cola Co to register as a trade mark under section 68(1) of the

Trade Marks Act 1938 the "distinctive shape and appearance" of their bottles. The section defined a mark as including "a device, heading, label, ticket, name, signature, word, letter, numeral, or any combination thereof" but did not seem to cover "a container".

Other presents pale beside it.

NOTHING ELSE MEASURES UP TO JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK LABEL.







SKIING: AUSTRIANS CANNOT SEE THEIR WAY TO A WORLD CUP COMEBACK

# A double triumph for brave Swiss

Val Gardena, Italy (Agencies) - Pirmin Zurbriggen and Martin Matti brought Switzerland the first two places in a World Cup super-giant slalom here yesterday. It was the second successive victory for the Swiss team in this resort within 24 hours - on Saturday, Urs Reber had won the men's downhill event. It was Zurbriggen's first World Cup victory of the season and the third of his career. It gave him an undisputed lead in the overall World Cup with 97 points.

Austrian skier, hindered by the Swiss in Sunday's downhill, did better than on the previous day, but again failed to win. The Olympic champion Leonard Stock, who was third, led seven Austrians in the top 15.

Zurbriggen, who has proved the most versatile skier in the super-giant slalom since this event was introduced as an experiment in 1981, took some time to get used to the upper part of the Saslong track. Nevertheless, he recorded the best intermediate time and a winning total of 1 min 33.33 sec.

The super-giant slalom was transferred here because of bad weather at Campiglio but conditions in Val Gardena were also terrible. Rain and snow limited visibility severely.

After his victory, Zurbriggen said: "That was the most difficult super-g I've ever raced, particularly in view of the snow which kept sticking to the goggles."

Victory yesterday has improved Zurbriggen's chances of gaining additional World Cup points since results here are combined with the results of a special slalom now scheduled to take place in Madonna di Campiglio on Tuesday.

Zurbriggen has made considerable progress in slalom recently and was surprisingly placed fourth in Courmayeur last week. Hang's achievement was perhaps the greatest of all, because he finished only 43 hundredths of a second behind the winner, a second medalist starting in fifth place. It was his best race of the season.

Stock was also surprised after gaining third place and said he had



Zurbriggen: coped with terrible conditions to win his first World Cup event of the season

not expected such a good showing. He lagged 1.30sec behind the winner, but led his team colleagues, Hans Enn and Guido Hinterseer. In tomorrow's slalom at Madonna di Campiglio, the absence of the American twins, Phil and Steve Mahre, who have returned to the United States until after the new year in protest at the state of the snows in Europe, the Swedes, Ingemar Stenmark and Stig Strand, are expected to dominate. Stenmark, who - like Mahre - dislikes the super-giant slalom refused to race here yesterday.

RESULTS: 1. P. Zurbriggen (Swiss), 1min 33.33; 2. A. Stock (Aust), 1:36.76; 3. L. Stock (Aust), 1:36.82; 4. H. Enn (Aust), 1:36.92; 5. G. Hinterseer (Aust), 1:36.98; 6. A. Stock (Aust), 1:37.04; 7. P. Reber (Swiss), 1:37.04; 8. M. Matti (Swiss), 1:37.04; 9. L. Stock (Aust), 1:37.04; 10. P. Reber (Swiss), 1:37.04; 11. L. Stock (Aust), 1:37.04; 12. P. Reber (Swiss), 1:37.04; 13. L. Stock (Aust), 1:37.04; 14. P. Reber (Swiss), 1:37.04; 15. L. Stock (Aust), 1:37.04.

CRICKET: PAKISTANIS SCORE THIRD TOUR WIN

# Transvaal squeeze out a win

Johannesburg (Reuters) - The West Indian XI lost their unbeaten tour record when Transvaal defeated them by four wickets in a thrilling finish here yesterday. Needing 93 runs for victory in 24 minutes plus 20 overs, Transvaal did not appear to have too difficult a task, but only 11 balls remained when Jennings cut Moseley to the boundary to score the winning run.

The West Indian XI, 80 runs behind on the first innings, had been dismissed for 172, with the spinner, Kourie, taking four for 58 and Mitchell adding three wickets to the six he took in the first innings. Only Lynch and Trotman reached 30 for the touring side.

Tight bowling to a packed leg-side field by Clarke and Moseley, who bowled unchanged, reduced Transvaal to 51 for four with 8.2 overs remaining and although two more wickets fell at 74, Rio steered his team home.

SCORES: West Indies 112 and 84; Transvaal 172 and 93. Wicket-keepers: 1. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 2. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 3. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 4. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 5. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 6. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 7. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 8. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 9. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 10. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 11. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 12. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 13. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 14. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 15. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 16. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 17. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 18. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 19. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 20. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 21. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 22. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 23. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 24. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 25. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 26. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 27. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 28. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 29. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 30. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 31. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 32. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 33. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 34. J. A. Jones (Transvaal), 35. J. A. Jones (W.I.), 36. J. A. 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## Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

## BEC 1

6.00 **Coffee AM**  
6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Sheila Scott. News from Eurovision at 6.50, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; the day's television preview at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; horoscopes at 8.35; Diana Moran's star tips, cookery hints from Glyn Christian and Alison Mitchell's money matters, all between 8.30 and 9.00.

8.00 **Training Dogs** The Woodhouse Way. In lesson eight Mrs Woodhouse gives advice on Show Handling (r). 8.25 **Antique News** at 8.00. A celebration of the antique guru's birthday last March (r). 10.30 **Play School**, presented by Chloe Ashcroft (r). 10.55 **Closedown**.

12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Ian McCaskill. 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 **Pebble Mill** at One includes Christmas music from the English Church with Barbara Courtney-King. 1.45 **Gran** (r). 1.50 **Stop Go!** (r).

2.00 **Day Out** Gwyn Richards visits Action Sport Working Farm Museum, near Church Stretton in Shropshire. 2.30 **Lucky Luke**, a full-length animated film about the exploits of mid-19th-century gunman. 3.40 **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. 3.53 **Regional News** (not London).

3.55 **Play School**. 4.20 **The Adventures of Bullwinkle and Rocky**. Part one of the cartoon series. The Last Angry Moose. 4.30 **Jackanory**. Ian Fraser reads part two of Peter Pan. 4.40 **Wuffler**. The last episode of the comedy series about a dog waffler. 5.05 **Newsround**. 5.10 **Record Breakers**. The last of the series and among the best in the history of the programme. 5.15 **Newsround** at 5.35, closing news headlines at 5.38.

5.40 **Sixty Minutes** includes national news from Moira Stuart at 5.40; regional news magazines at 5.53; weather at 6.15; and closing news headlines at 6.38.

6.40 **Angels**. Edward is taken, reluctantly, to dinner with Chris and Tracy while Vicky says goodbye to her favourite party.

7.05 **Herry**, Russell with Julie Walters, Victoria Wood and Hot Gossip.

7.40 **No Place Like Home**. Comedy series about a middle-aged couple whose grown-up children decide to return to the nest.

8.10 **Dallas**. The Oil Barons' Bill Gates in Dallas when the deal Jack within earshot of the Ewings.

1.00 **News** with John Humphrys.

1.35 **Orwell on Jura**. A drama documentary about George Orwell's retreat to Jura to write *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Starring Ronald Pickup as Orwell and Fiona Watling as Avril Blair. Written by Alan Plater (see choice).

1.55 **Perry Carter's French-Canadian Christmas Special**. The crooner in festive mood with guests Debby Boone, Canadian folk singer Diane Tell, Olympic ice-skating champion Dorothy Hamill, pianist André Gagnon and the Vite La Vite Troupe.

1.45 **News** headlines and weather.

## tv-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. A review of the morning papers at 6.25; news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, and 8.30; sport at 8.35 and 7.40; exercises at 8.45; John Stapleton with a topical guest in the Spotlight at 7.05; The search for the Star of Bethlehem continues at 7.35; Christmas shopping with Paula Yates at 7.45; pop video at 7.55; inside Sheila Star's house at 8.05; Christmas hamper awards at 8.15; Giles Brandstetter's video report at 8.35; and the cooking clinic at 8.50. 9.00 **Roland's Winter Wonderland**.

## ITV/LONDON

9.25 **Thames news headlines** followed by *Sesame Street* in which the Muppets make learning fun.

10.25 **M.G.M.'s Big Parade of Comedy**. A nostalgic compilation of some of the best films made at the studios before 1947. Among the many stars appearing are Greta Garbo, Joan Crawford, W. C. Fields, the Marx Brothers and Laurel and Hardy. The narrator is Les Tremayne. 11.50 **Carleton Time**. Popeye takes over the Abusement Park (r).

12.00 **Pandora Bill**. Puppet adventures of a lighthouse keeper. 12.10 **Sounds Like a Story**. Mark Wynter with the tale of *The Frog King* and the Moon. 12.30 **The Sullivan**. News with Leonard Parker.

1.30 **Thames news**. 1.30 **Police**. The Prince and the Pauper (1977) starring Oliver Reed, Rachel Welch, George C. Scott and Charlton Heston. Period adventure about a young pauper boy who changes places with Prince Edward, the son of Henry VIII. Directed by Richard Fleischer. 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**.

4.00 **Portland Bill**. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 **The Rascals**. Christmas Special. A pop-packed edition featuring, among others, Eurythmics, Spandau Ballet and The Police. 4.45 **CBTV News**. Views and ideas for young people. 5.15 **Newsround**. From Boonville. A Christmas concert turns out to be full of surprises.

5.45 **News**. 6.00 **Thames news**. 6.20 **Help Community** action news from Viv Taylor. 6.30 **Crossroads**. Diana Hunter has a request refused by Denise Page.

6.55 **Reporting London** presented by Michael Barrett. There is a profile of Monsigneur Bruce Kent by reporter Michael Wilson who asks Mr Kent how he reconciles his church role with his work as the CND general secretary.

7.30 **Give Us a Clue**. Celebrity mime game chaired by Michael Aspin.

8.00 **Des O'Connor Tonight**. His guests are American comedian Nelson Sordelli, singer Grace Kennedy and, presumably with his kicking side, Ken Dodd.

9.00 **Once Upon a Murder**. The first and final part. It is now 1962 and a black man, Tyler Watts, is appointed chief of police (continues at 10.30).

10.00 **News**. 10.30 **Once Upon a Murder** continued.

11.20 **Cher at Caesar's Palace**. Highlights of concert given by the glamorous performer at the famous Las Vegas night spot.

12.25 **A Different Christmas**. Gillian Reynolds talks to someone who will be enjoying a non-traditional Christmas.

Alice Faye and Don Ameche in *Orwell in Danger* (BBC2 4.00pm).

Getting in first before the writer of *Orwell in Danger* is upon us in earnest, the BBC has chosen Orwell's period of self-imposed exile in the Hebrides as the subject of a fascinating drama documentary, *ORWELL ON JURA* (BBC1 9.25pm). The uncanny look-alike Ronald Pickup stars as the weary Orwell, troubled by tuberculosis, who arrives at Sarnhouse on the northernmost tip of Jura, in the hope that the seclusion and clean air of the place after the throngs and grime of blitzed London will improve his failing health. He is recently widowed and is joined by his sister Avril who takes over the arguments that seem to be part and parcel of setting-up-house are nearly done, but it is the tensions created by the arrival of

Orwell's two-year-old adopted son, Richard, and his nanny, Susan Watson, that are captured brilliantly, as one would expect from the experienced pen of author Alan Plater. Orwell's relationship with the islanders, especially the new neighbour who takes a shine to Avril, are neatly observed, but it is the performance of Pickup as Orwell, chain-smoking himself to death as he writes *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, that sets the high standard of this film - a film that other films on the subject will be pushed to equal.

In Peter Gilderew's *ST ORWELL IN DANGER* (BBC2 7.05pm), his sequel to *Schoolgirl*

Chums, which was repeated last night, his heroine, that all-round good egg, Alison Dayne, is now in the sixth form. Set in the 1930s, *Orwell in Danger* has everything the traditional Girls' Own stories ever contained - a mysterious gypsy, crumpets for tea, the handsome, heroic cousin on his motorbike, ghosts, nice and nasty teachers and an unflappable American philanthropist, the owner of the estate neighbouring St Ursula's. Ian Kell's direction produces a number of good performance from the girls, but the acting honours go to Barbara Bolton as the strict Miss Proctor and to Susan Watson, the soft Miss Cowley. All good, clean, fun without ever entering into the realms of farce.

Shirley Quirk, baritone, Elgar, and Suite: The Soldier's Tale. 10.50 **Conductors** with the Royal Phil play the Florida Suite: Dance Rhapsody No. 2. A Ceremony of Carols: The Great Eastern work is performed by the boys of Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford, with Orlan Ellis (soprano).

11.20 **Violin and Piano**: recital by Maureen Smith (violin) and Ian Brown, Part one. Debussy's Sonnets in G minor, and Beethoven's Sonnets in G. Op. 61.

12.10 **BBC Philharmonic Orchestra** in concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Part one. Brahms's Tragic Overture, and Elgar's Cello Concerto.

1.00 **News**. 1.05 **Concert**: part two. Alexander Goehr's Deux études; Strauss's Symphonic Poem Death and Transfiguration.

1.55 **Landscapes**: guitar recital. Works by Torroba and Gaspar Sanz.

2.15 **Beach and Bruckner**: Beethoven's Choral Fantasy on Violin with Ian Brown. Part one. Debussy's Fugue in E flat major, BWV 552; and Bruckner's Symphonies No. 8.1 and 8.2.

4.00 **News**. 4.05 **Concert**: part two. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10, No. 3; and the Sonata in C major, Op. 10, No. 5.

4.55 **News**. 5.00 **Concert**: part three. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10, No. 3; and the Sonata in C major, Op. 10, No. 5.

5.55 **News**. 6.00 **Concert**: part four. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10, No. 3; and the Sonata in C major, Op. 10, No. 5.

6.55 **News**. 7.00 **Concert**: part five. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10, No. 3; and the Sonata in C major, Op. 10, No. 5.

7.55 **News**. 8.00 **Concert**: part six. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10, No. 3; and the Sonata in C major, Op. 10, No. 5.

8.55 **News**. 9.00 **Concert**: part seven. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10, No. 3; and the Sonata in C major, Op. 10, No. 5.

9.55 **News**. 10.00 **Concert**: part eight. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10, No. 3; and the Sonata in C major, Op. 10, No. 5.

10.55 **News**. 11.00 **Concert**: part nine. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10, No. 3; and the Sonata in C major, Op. 10, No. 5.

11.55 **News**. 12.00 **Concert**: part ten. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10, No. 3; and the Sonata in C major, Op. 10, No. 5.

12.55 **News**. 1.00 **Concert**: part eleven. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in E minor, Op. 10, No. 3; and the Sonata in C major, Op. 10, No. 5.

and London Sinfonietta. Works include Siegfried's Schwert, for tenor and large orchestra, and Schubert's Op. 98, for German Dances, Op. 98.1.

## Radio 2

News on the hour (except 8.00pm and 9.00pm). Major bulletins at 7.00am, 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12.00pm, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm, 7.00pm, 8.00pm, 9.00pm, 10.00pm, 11.00pm, 12.00pm. Music You Will Work with Harry Harkness. 12.30pm. News. 1.00pm. News. 1.30pm. News. 2.00pm. News. 2.30pm. News. 3.00pm. News. 3.30pm. News. 4.00pm. News. 4.30pm. News. 5.00pm. News. 5.30pm. News. 6.00pm. News. 6.30pm. News. 7.00pm. News. 7.30pm. News. 8.00pm. News. 8.30pm. News. 9.00pm. News. 9.30pm. News. 10.00pm. News. 10.30pm. News. 11.00pm. News. 11.30pm. News. 12.00pm. News. 12.30pm. News. 1.00pm. News. 1.30pm. News. 2.00pm. News. 2.30pm. News. 3.00pm. News. 3.30pm. News. 4.00pm. News. 4.30pm. News. 5.00pm. News. 5.30pm. News. 6.00pm. News. 6.30pm. News. 7.00pm. News. 7.30pm. News. 8.00pm. News. 8.30pm. News. 9.00pm. News. 9.30pm. News. 10.00pm. News. 10.30pm. News. 11.00pm. News. 11.30pm. News. 12.00pm. News. 12.30pm. News. 1.00pm. News. 1.30pm. News. 2.00pm. 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## New rules proposed for GPs' deputies

By Nicholas Timmins  
Social Services  
Correspondent

Strict new controls over deputizing services and the use of family doctors can make of them to cover night and weekend calls were proposed yesterday by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Health.

The changes come after allegations that some deputizing services are substandard and that some family doctors have been making use of the services to take all their night and weekend work.

Under the new rules, doctors in partnerships of three or more would be expected to cover each other's night calls, without recourse to deputizing services. Single-handed doctors, and partnerships of two, would be allowed to display them for a maximum of three nights a week.

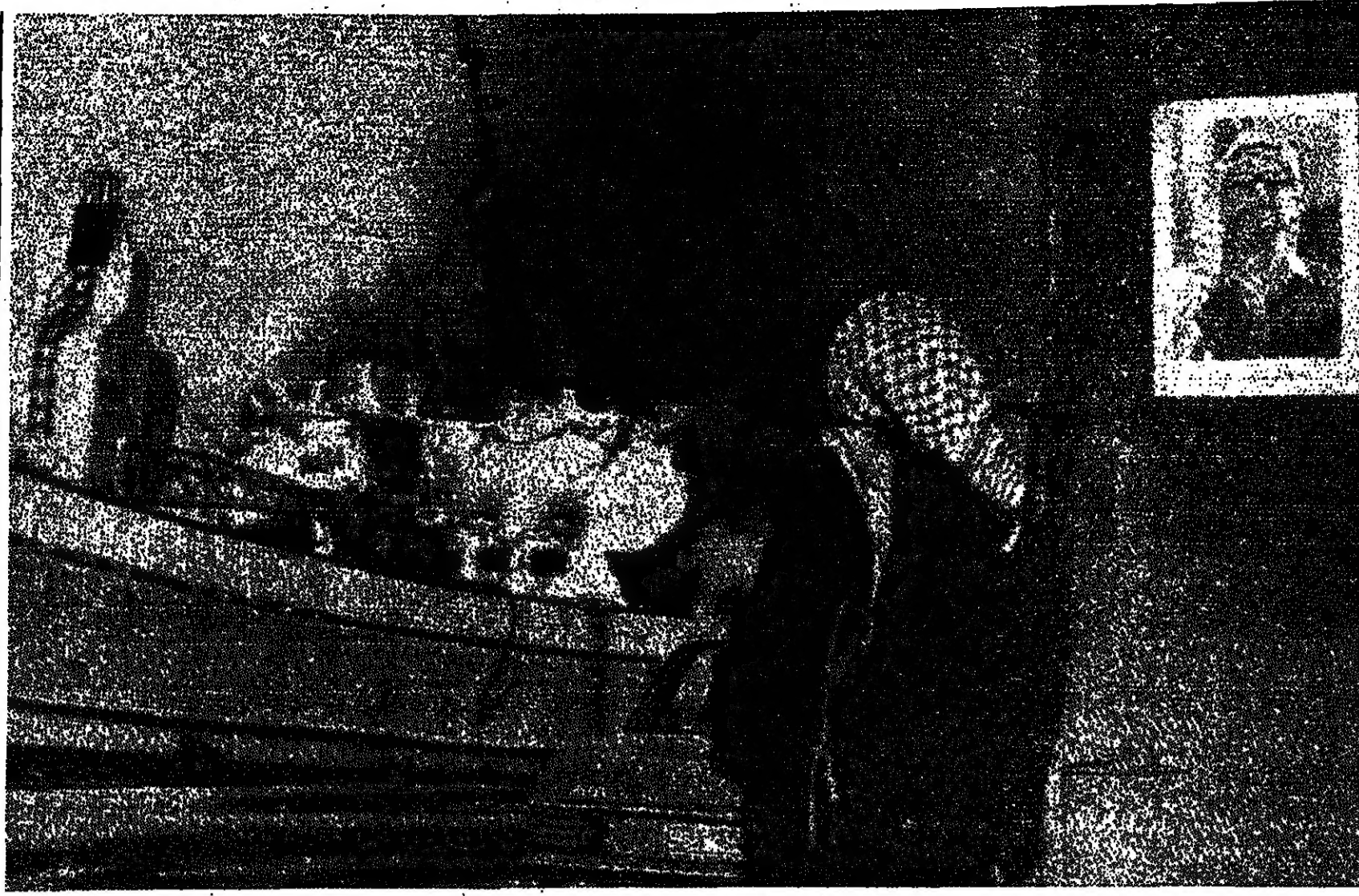
The amount of use could be varied to suit local circumstances and the problems of individual doctors, but regular random checks would be made and excessive use would normally be disciplinary matter, the draft circular on the new rules says.

The proposals were greeted as "a great step forward" by Mr Christopher Hawkins, Conservative MP for High Beak, who has been campaigning for tougher controls, but Mr Michael Lowe, secretary of the British Medical Association's advisory committee on deputizing services, said that they were "astonishing".

If the new rules were enforced, he said, deputizing services would simply shut down because they would cease to be viable, and general practice in inner cities would collapse.

Many single handed general practitioners in inner cities were elderly and could not cope with being on call four nights a week. "It is just not reasonable to expect doctors to be disturbed through the night and expect them to be able to cope with their patients properly in the morning," he said.

Dr John Ball, chairman of the General Medical Services Committee, said that it made "no sense" to force excessive hours on doctors when society was increasingly concerned that important decisions should not be taken by people who were over-tired.



Burnt out case: A PLO fighter watching the cargo ship My Charm blazing in Tripoli harbour. Mr Arafat looks on from a poster.

## Arafat ready for evacuation

Continued from page 1

Which raised the little matter of my My Charm. The ship, whose port of registry, Limassol, can still be discerned in the burnt stern paintwork, sailed boldly into Tripoli on Sunday night. Port workers - who are few enough these days but loquacious none the less - suggested that the freighter had docked for the specific purpose of picking up all those heavy guns which Mr Arafat had promised to give to the police.

An emphatic denial came from the PLO leader, although several large trucks can be seen around Tripoli with sacks of rockets all neatly packaged, as if they were about to be transported somewhere.

In human terms, Israel's latest pin-prick harassment of the PLO has done little more than raise fears among the civilian population of Tripoli, and increase the anguish of the older PLO men, who are forced to leave their families in Tripoli, just as many of their colleagues did in Sabra and

Chatila in the summer of last year.

"I said goodbye to my family yesterday," a Palestinian in his late forties said yesterday, as he stood by the harbour wall leaning on a stick. "Then I said goodbye to them today. And now I shall have to do the same again tomorrow."

Other, younger Palestinians sat atop mobile anti-aircraft guns beside the port, waiting for the Israeli gunboats to reappear on the horizon. The sea remained a flat calm, enlivened only by the narrow Moudaouara islands in Tripoli sound.

At dusk, two blue-funnelled tugboats puttered into the wreckage of the harbour to look for empty berths for the Greek ships, which - so it was rumoured - would arrive at dawn.

The PLO were also worried yesterday that the Israelis might decide to stage air strikes on Tripoli, after their jets had bombed the towns of Bhamdoun and Aley in the Chouf mountains east of Beirut. The Syrians claimed later

that the Israelis had hit one of the Army positions behind Bhamdoun, and had also struck a hospital used by leftist militias.

An Israeli spokesman at the Israeli liaison office north of Beirut claimed that the planes had bombed positions held by Colonel Abu Moussa's Palestinians. Mr Arafat's rivals within the PLO. No comment was made about this in Tripoli; nor was any sympathy vouchsafed for the Colonel's men.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan has said that the US Marines and other troops of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Beirut could be withdrawn next year if Syria gave an assurance that it would pull out its forces from Lebanon and "start the process".

ISRAELI BLAMED: The White House yesterday blamed the Israelis for the evacuation of the PLO from Tripoli, and called on them to stop blocking the Palestinians' departure.

Israeli pressure, page 5  
Spectrum, page 8

## Break with tradition at Marks & Spencer

Continued from page 1

with many new lines. Lord Sieff engagingly admits to having made mistakes, but argues that being able to correct some of them gives even more scope for progress.

It was Lord Sieff who built up the company's food side, in 1955, introducing Britons to quality fresh and convenience foods. The food business now accounts for 38 per cent of Marks & Spencer turnover.

When Lord Rayner took over as chief executive earlier this year, Lord Sieff assured company veterans that the family tradition would continue. Mr Salisse said yesterday: "So it has proved. He is, after all, virtually one of the family. There will be change, inevitably, but it will be gradual."

Lord Rayner, a big jolly man of 57, joined Marks & Spencer in 1953, became a director in 1968 and joint managing

director in 1973. He was made joint vice-chairman last year.

But he caused the biggest stir when in 1979 he became the Prime Minister's adviser on improving Whitehall efficiency. By the end of last year when he finished that job - he was made a life peer in the 1983 New Year's Honours - he had left an indelible mark on many Whitehall departments.

Now, after nine months as chief executive, the Rayner strategy for Marks & Spencer is starting to emerge. He is naturally looking for any sign of inefficiency in the company's empire of 262 stores in Britain and is also looking for continued growth abroad.

The company now has eight stores in the EEC, and exports St Michael goods to 30 countries.

There are nearly 200 stores in Canada and the United States, and probably be the next expansion area, although there are no plans for that yet.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

## Despair hangs over the Chamber

Mr Joh Biffen, the Leader of the House, was being questioned yesterday by the Labour back benches, Mr Ian Daryell, about leaked secret Whitehall documents when he suddenly made a disclosure about Mr Daryell.

"As to secrets, I think the House should note that many years ago I sponsored the hon member to be chairman of the Cambridge University Conservative Association," Mr Biffen observed, in that amiable way of his. Mr Daryell is that tall, slightly wild-eyed, plummy-voiced Scot of gentle birth and good English education who is interested in all known conspiracies.

On the subject for example, of why we sank the Argentine warship, *General Belgrano*, he has shaken off all vestiges of his Conservative past and is an ordinary, respectable, extremist. The fact that he was once a Conservative has long been well known. It has always been ascribed to youthful low spirits.

His membership of the party has also to be seen in the context of the Cambridge of the early 1950s, that despairing era when young idealists believed that, with the seemingly unstoppable rise of R. A. Butler, conservatism offered the only hope of a seat in Parliament.

What is new about the Biffen testimony however, is the revelation of how significant Daryell was within the Conservative apparatus set up in Cambridge during those morally confused times.

Mr Daryell, it is now clear, was a much more important agent than has hitherto been supposed. He was in the social circle of the young Mr Biffen, and he was sufficiently powerful to be nominated for the Cambridge University Conservative Association chairmanship itself.

No doubt his defence is that, like no many other Old Etonians who in later life become socialists or progressives of one kind or another, he became more extreme once he faced up to the responsibilities of a career.

But it all left a lot of questions unanswered. At what point did he leave the party? To what extent is he still sympathetic to the bourgeois ideology with which the party indoctrinated him? There are grounds for an independent inquiry.

But Mr Biffen's revelation had made us all smile. And smiles were welcome during this particular question time. For we all knew what was coming. And what was coming was the statement by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

These statements after terrible events tell us little that we do not know already. Mr Brittan described the events at Harrods once again. He paid his respects, and vowed that the terrorists would not profit from this deed. Mr Gerald Kaufman, the chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, shared those sentiments on behalf of his party. Mr Brittan answered questions from all sides, certain despair hung over the chamber.

This is the despair of people who do not know what to do next. As such it affects a majority on both sides of the chamber, but not the minorities in the House who believe they do know what to do.

These include those on the Labour left who believe that the answer is to move towards a united Ireland, though in some indefinable way that does not bring on the massacre of the very Catholics whose cause they espouse.

There are also the Unionists, including Mr Enoch Powell; for them the answer is greater "security". But that too is never wholly defined.

But the majority yesterday betrayed no such certainties. In all the questioning only a few lingered in the memory. Mr John Hume, *Irishman*, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said that as an Irishman he was ashamed and that if those who planted that bomb were Irish patriots, "then God save Ireland."

The Conservative, Mr Ivan Lawrence, said the Government should ensure that the details of the crime "receive the widest possible circulation in the United States."

Britain and from Mr James Prior, is a sense that the Government knows how to wage the undaunted fight against terrorism which their ministers promise. Their strategy at the moment seems to be that the British should carry on shopping. The Blitz has been evoked. But in the Blitz our leaders sought allies and devised offensives.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the National Playing Fields Association, attends a Royal Gala performance of "Aladdin" at the Shaftesbury Theatre, WC2, 7.35.

The Prince of Wales, President of the Royal Jubilee Trust, and President of the Prince's Trust, visits Greater Manchester, at 11.30 His Royal Highness visits J.E.L. Energy Conservation Society, Ltd.

at Bramhall Moor Industrial Park, Stockport, followed by a visit to the West Indian Sports Club and Community Centre, 2.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, Patron of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, attends a Carol Concert in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, in aid of the fund, 5.55.

The Prince of Wales opens the New Extra Care Centre at the Abbeyfield Dementia House, Swinbourne Grove, Withington, Manchester, 3.30.

Princess Anne attends the Christmas celebration in Westminster Cathedral, 6.35.

Princess Margaret attends the premiere of "The Wind in the Willows", at the ABC Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue, in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, of which Her Royal Highness is President, 5.50.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attend *The Observer* Christmas Carol Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London, 7.20.

Ron Goodman Christmas Show, with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Guildhall, Portsmouth, 7.30.

Carol concert with Norwich Citadel Band, St. Andrew's Hall, Norwich, 7.30.

General Antique and Collectors Fair, Beaumont Hotel, Walcott Street, Bath, 11 to 8.30.

Works by Richard Traut, Tom McArthur, Jill Hutchings, Margaret Derry, Pamela Derry and Richard Constable, Blake Gallery, Georges Lane, Crowthorne, Dorset; Mon to Sat 10 to 4 (ends today).

Exhibitions in progress Home Sweet Home - an exhibition of Victorian Home Life, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth; Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30 (ends Feb 26).

South Yorkshire Open Art Exhibition, Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire; Tues to 5.30, Wed to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Mon (ends Jan 8).

Words and Images from the Lake District Collage Gallery, University of Strathclyde, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 5 (ends Thurs).

What is Conservation?, an exhibition looking at conservation of historic artefacts, James Dunn's House, 61 School Hill, Aberdeen; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 7).

Captains of Commerce: New Irish Ceramics; Tom Carr, retrospective; Aspects of Africa; four simultaneous exhibitions at the Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 1 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed 24 to 27 Dec inclusive (ends Dec 31).

Anniversaries Births: John Wilson Croker, politician and essayist, Galway, 1780; Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia 1939-41, 1949-66; Jeppert, Vienna, 1894; Ambrose Pare surgeon, died Paris, 1590.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Health and Social Security Bill, second reading, Lords (2.30): Roads (Scotland) Bill, committee. Amusement Machines Bill, committee.

Snow reports The Times service of snow reports, covering skiing conditions at the major European resorts, begins today and will continue until next April. They are published today on page 19.

### TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending Dec 11

1. Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 10.55m
2. Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 10.55m
3. This is Your Life, Thames, 14.55m
4. Anne Tidy, BBC, 12.55m
5. Up the Elephant & Round The Castle, Thames, 14.25m
6. In Love with Memory, Yorkshire, 13.50m
7. Give us a Clue, Thames, 13.20m
8. Crossroads (Tue), Central, 12.55m
9. The Great and the Beautiful, 12.55m
10. Family Fortunes, Central, 12.35m

1. The Two Ronnies, 13.55m
2. Noel Edwards Late Late Breakfast Show, 12.15m
3. Dallas, 11.20m
4. Wildlife at St. Trinian's, 10.55m
5. Only Fools & Horses, 10.70m
6. The Great British Bake Off, 10.55m
7. Bergerac, 10.55m
8. Sports Relief for the Year, 10.30m
9. The Great and the Beautiful, 12.55m
10. Terry & June, 9.55m

1. The Bob Monkhouse Show, 8.50m
2. The Great British Bake Off, 10.55m
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1. The Paul Hogan Show, 8.55m
2. Good and Bad at Games, 2.55m
3. Late Night and Games, 2.40m
4. The Great British Bake Off, 10.55m
5. Brookside (Tue), 1.50m
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### Roads

Midlands A16: Traffic signals at Little Port and on Cambridge to Royston road at Hauxton, B4194. Closed between Stourport and Bewdley. A6: Traffic signals at Belper, Derbyshire.

Wales and West A417: Delays, diversions on old A40, St Oswalds Road, Gloucester. M4: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 22 across Severn Bridge, affecting both carriageways. A303: Temporary lights on Wincanton-Ilminster road at Holton and Sparkford; also Seavington and Ilminster.

North A66: Single-line traffic and lights on approaches to bridge at Eden Lodge, north-west of Appleby, Cumbria. A575: Lane closures between junction 21 and junction 22 across Severn Bridge, affecting both carriageways. A303: Temporary lights on Wincanton-Ilminster road at Holton and Sparkford; also Seavington and Ilminster.

Scotland A84: Intermittent traffic control at Laurence Croft, Stirling. A9: Intermittent traffic control in Causeway Head Road, Stirling. A96: Traffic control 3 miles east of Forres.

Information supplied by A.A.

The papers The Daily Mirror asks whether the CBI is aiming to break up the happy home with its evidence of the winter taking a two week break over Christmas. It points to an insurance company estimate that the average British Housewife has two children works 94 hours a week. That means that over a week she makes 21 beds, cooks and washes up for 28 breakfasts and dinners, and washes and irons two tubs of dirty clothes. If "himself" is home for two weeks after Christmas will he be doing all that? Will he say, love, you slaved to make Christmas Day happy for me and the kids. Now put your feet up for a fortnight? It directs any doubters to a report of the Marriage and Family Trust Organization, which says the number of couples seeking help from marriage guidance councils doubles after the Christmas holidays. "The reason, it says, is that problems 'simmering' under the surface' rise up when couples are forced together over a Christmas break. What is the CBI trying to do - break up the happy home?"

'Shoplifters' counsel Christmas is one of the peak periods for shoplifting; this year, an organization formed to help those accused of such offences is just getting into its stride. It calls itself Crisis Counselling for Alleged Shoplifters and Offers moral support and practical advice to those who may feel they have been wrongly accused. Cases involving children are especially welcome. CCAS is at 39, Brockley Avenue, Stanmore, Middx. Tel. 01-202 5787, 958 8559 (after 7pm) or 346 2182 (messages only).

Lighting-up time London 4.23 pm to 7.34 am. Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.43 am. Belfast 4.33 pm to 7.43 am. Edinburgh 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. Manchester 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. Newcastle 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. Perth 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. Plymouth 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. Portsmouth 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. Reading 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. Southampton 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. Swansea 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. Tyneside 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. Wolverhampton 4.23 pm to 7.43 am. York 4.23 pm to 7.43 am.

Yesterday Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; l, light; n, rain; s, sun. London: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Birmingham: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Bristol: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Cardiff: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Edinburgh: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Glasgow: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Liverpool: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Manchester: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Newcastle: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Nottingham: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Oxford: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Perth: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Plymouth: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Portsmouth: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Reading: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Southampton: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Swansea: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Tyneside: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. Wolverhampton: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13. York: c, 10; l, 11; n, 12; s, 13.

Highest and lowest Yesterday: Highest day temp: Eastbourne, 11C (52F); lowest day temp: Ayr, 4C (39F). Highest night temp: London, 12C (54F); lowest night temp: Ayr, 4C (39F).

London Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 5 pm, 81 per cent; 8 am, 61 per cent. Wind: max 10 km/h, 10 km/h. Rain: 0.5 mm. Sunshine: 1000 hours. 29.53.

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